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# HISTORY

OF

SHERBURNE, MASS.

FROM ITS INCORPORATION,

M DC LXXIV,

TO THE END OF THE YEAR

M DCCC XXX;

INCLUDING THAT OF

**FRAMINGHAM AND HOLLISTON,**

SO FAR AS THEY WERE

CONSTITUENT PARTS OF THAT TOWN.

BY WILLIAM BIGLOW,

AUTHOR OF THE HISTORY OF NATICK.

**Milford, Mass.**

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY BALLOU & STACY.

1830.





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## ADVERTISEMENT.

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This Pamphlet is compiled chiefly from the Records of the Town of Sherburne, in possession of the present Town Clerk. These records, from the beginning of the settlement to the present time, have been made and preserved with a care, which deserves commendation. They exhibit the transactions of a community of the most independent class of inhabitants, and of that, on which all other classes depend for subsistence; namely, the cultivators of the soil. Though there is nothing found, in their transactions, to excite wonder, or astonishment, yet there is not a little, which may afford amusement and instruction; especially to the descendents of the worthy persons, who redeemed this part of our land from the wilderness, who have "accomplished, as a hireling, their day, and whose sepulchres remain with us."



## HISTORY OF SHERBURNE.

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### BOUNDARIES, TOPOGRAPHICAL DESCRIPTION, &c.

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SHERBURNE is situated on the extreme south point of the *County of Middlesex*, south-westerly from Boston. The ancient milestone at the foot of Meeting-house hill, and within an 8th of a mile from the centre of the town, was marked in olden time, "Boston 22 miles." The distance, as the road now runs, is about 19; and when this shall be straitened, as has been proposed and laid out, it will not exceed 18 miles from the centre of the town to the city.

SHERBURNE is bounded N. by Framingham; N. E. by Natick; E. by Dover and Medfield; S. E. by Medfield; S. by Medway; S. W. and W. by Holliston; N. W. by Framingham. It contains about 10,000 acres, 200 of which are covered with water. According to a plan, taken by Joseph Ware, Esq. its extreme length, from N. to S. is 6 miles and 30 rods; and its extreme breadth, from E. to W. 4 miles and 154 rods. A new survey is begun by Dalton Goulding, Esq. from which a map will ere long be delineated, according to a late act of the General Court.

PRINCIPAL ROAD, MAILS, &c.—The only mail road through this town is that, which has been called the "Hartford road," from "time which the memory of man runneth not to the contrary." It leads from Boston to Hart-

*The road that was traveled by Gen. Washington after the evacuation of Boston. on his way to New York. The house is still standing where he took breakfast.*



ford, in Connecticut. Mail, stage and accommodation coaches are doing a large and increasing business on this route. For their number, names and other particulars the reader is referred to Badger & Porter's Stage Register, published periodically in Boston. There is a post-office kept, on this road, near the centre of the town, where the mail is opened daily, Sundays excepted. The other roads are numerous and generally kept in good repair.

The only tavern in town is near the center and situated on this road. Its owner, Captain Daniel Paul, is the only person in town licenced to sell liquors by the glass. Here travellers and others may find every desirable accommodation.

On this road there are four or five "variety stores," as they are called in New England, where groceries and dry goods are retailed.

**SURFACE OF THE COUNTRY, SOIL AND PRODUCTIONS.—**The land in most parts of the town is very hilly, rocky and stony; but the soil is rich and productive. It amply compensates the husbandman for the labour bestowed on it. Pasture, tillage and upland mowing grounds are happily proportioned throughout the township; and valuable meadows, some abounding in peat, are interspersed in the vallies. There are still remaining many valuable wood-lots, which not only furnish the inhabitants with fuel; but also firewood, charcoal and timber for ship-building and other purposes, for the city market. The inhabitants, like those of many other towns, in this region, are adopting a method to prolong and perpetuate the growth of forest trees, sufficient to supply the present and future generations with this necessary article. They clear a parcel of land entirely of the wood, and leave it to grow up again immediately;





calculating to have it cut down once in about 30 years. The soil is peculiarly well adapted to the growth of the apple and other fruit trees; and the owners of it have availed themselves of this advantage to an extent, which deserves and receives commendation. The apples, cider and vinegar, with which Sherburne furnishes the market, do not suffer in comparison with those of any other township, in the commonwealth. The butter from the dairies is highly prized; but the superiority of this deducts from the goodness of the cheese, which is made here; and induces the dealers in this article to purchase that, which is brought to market from a greater distance, where the skimming dish is not so fashionable. Indian corn, rye, barley, oats, and all the culinary roots and vegetables, which in the *Yankee dialect* are called *sauce*, are raised here in abundance. There is a meadow washed by Sewal brook, which has afforded, in one season, 2000 bushels of cranberries, which have been converted into a very palatable *sauce*, in the English sense of the word.

But few of the hills are distinguished by proper names; and indeed if they were, they are so numerous, that a catalogue would occupy more space, than could well be spared in a pamphlet of ordinary size. The most remarkable is Brush hill, about a mile from the centre of the town, in a northerly direction. This is of a beautiful conical shape, entirely cleared of wood, as elevated, as any other, within many miles of it, and seen at a great distance, in every direction. The prospect from the summit is extensive and variegated. Standing on this, one looks down on the handsome villages of Framingham, Natick, Medfield, Medway and Holliston; and in a circle outside of these, the church in Lincoln, and the hill above it, Prospect hill in



Waltham, Blue hill in Milton, the churches and highlands in Hopkinton, Shrewsbury and other towns, the church in Princeton, the Watchusett, Monadnock and many other Mountains, which appear like clouds rising in the horizon. In every point of compass, a tract of country presents itself, exactly suited to an agricultural and manufacturing community. Peters hill is about a mile from Brush hill, in a northeasterly direction. This is remarkable for its steepness, presenting on its westerly side, for about 100 rods in length, a ledge of rocks, almost perpendicular, excepting one place, which is known by the name of the Devil's cart-way, from its resemblance to an artificial road. The perpendicular height on this side is from 40 to 60 feet. At its base a fine thrifty growth of young forest trees hides its ruggedness from the eye of the passenger on the road, that runs parallel to it. Meeting-house hill, about a mile distant from Brush hill, in a south easterly direction, is remarkable only, as the place devoted to public worship from the first settlement of the town. City hill, lately so named, about a mile S. W. from Brush hill, is little else than a pyramid of rocks, piled up by the rude hand of nature. When the magnetic needle is brought near this, there is a local attraction, which causes it to vary about five degrees. A similar attraction is observed in a swamp, through which the boundary line runs between Sherburne and Framingham; and in a less degree in other parts of the town.

At the north west corner of the town, next to Framingham, the land is flat, moist, free from stone and of good quality, about a mile square. There is considerable plain sandy land, round Farm pond in the easterly part, and so free from rocks and stones, that the inhabitants cannot



procure a sufficiency for fencing their grounds, without going to a distance, which renders it inconvenient, laborious and expensive. In the south part there is a plain, elevated considerably above the waters of Charles river, on the easterly side and a hollow on the opposite. The road, leading from Meeting-house hill to the east parish in Medway, passes through nearly the middle of this plain, which is about 1 1-2 miles in length and 1-4 of a mile in breadth. Edwards Plain, about 1-2 a mile in length and 1-3 in breadth, lies S. E. of Meeting-house hill, commencing about 100 rods distant from its base, on the road from Hartford to Boston.

**PONDS, BROOKS, RIVER.**—There are two considerable ponds, in the easterly part of the town. Farm pond covers about 160 acres and is well stored with pickerel, perch, pouts and other fish. There is a beautiful island within it, to which anglers frequently resort to cook and feast on their prey, beneath the shade of the forest trees. This pond has no visible inlet; but a perennial rivulet, which empties into Charles river, at the distance of a mile, is constantly supplied by it, and serves to irrigate the lands, through which it passes. Little pond, about 3-4 of a mile north from the above, covering from 40 to 50 acres, contributes to Charles river through Sawin's brook. This affords some sport for the angler. On the south margin of this pond is a mineral spring, which was highly prized by the Indians in former days, for its medicinal qualities; and some white people are supposed to have received essential benefit from it. I know not that its waters have ever been analyzed.

There are three streams, in this town, on which mills are erected; but these are supplied with a sufficiency of



water to move the machinery, only in the winter season. Mr. Isaac Cozens has a saw mill on Chestnut brook, in the north westerly part of the town, and Mr. Jonathan Holbrook on Sewal brook, in the south-easterly section, has a saw mill and corn mill. On Dirty meadow brook there are two sawmills; one owned by Col. Daniel Leland, the other by James and Samuel Leland. The town, however, is well watered with springs and rivulets, and possesses many convenient situations for conveying water by aqueducts into dwelling houses, barn yards and wherever else it is wanted. Of this the inhabitants have availed themselves.

On the southerly side of the dwelling house of Isaac Whitney, Esq. near Holliston line, a number of springs uniting form a rivulet called, in the ancient records, Doppin brook, which runs in a southerly direction, the waters of which are continually accumulating, till they furnish a supply for several mill seats, and finally unite with Charles river, in Medway. On the northerly side of this house, at the distance of a quarter of a mile, similar springs unite and form a like stream, which falls into Sudbury river. On the southeasterly declivity of Brush hill, near the dwelling house of Mr. John Perry, the springs contributing to Chestnut brook, called also Coarse brook, which empties into Long pond in Natick, and eventually into the Merrimack, are only about ten rods distant from those, which unite, in an opposite direction, with Sawin's brook, a tributary stream of the Charles. These waters, of course, mingle with the ocean, at a long distance from each other; namely, at the mouths of the Merrimack, Charles and Neponset. Charles river separates Sherburne from Medfield and Dover on the south and east, and forms the boundary line for nearly five miles.





REMARKABLE TREES.—An Elm on the farm of Mr. John Leland, in the westerly part of the town, planted there by one of the first English inhabitants of the place, now measures, on the surface of the ground, twenty-seven and a half feet in circumference; at the height of 6 feet, the girth is 14 feet. It tapers very gradually to the height of 20 feet, where its branches spread to all points of the compass, resembling very nearly the celebrated tree of the same kind, on Boston common. There are many other stately elms in all parts of the town. On the farm of John Twitchel, in the N. W. part, there is a cherry tree of the Mazzard species, which measures, at the height of three feet from the ground, eleven feet in circumference. The stone, from which this tree sprung, was brought from the east part of Watertown, near Cambridge line, A. D. 1762. The fruit produced by it in one season, has been sold, in Boston market, for \$30. Though it is now decaying, its annual produce is considerable. The inhabitants of this vicinity believe this to be the largest tree of the kind in this Commonwealth. This is the parent of several others, in the town and vicinity, which do honour to their progenitor. The first apple seed, planted in Sherburne, was brought from England in the pocket of the first Mrs Leland, who settled in the place. This became a large tree and produced abundance of fruit, of the kind, known by the name of English spice apple, till A. D. 1815, when one half of it was blown down in the great September gale. The rest of it gradually decayed and fell down about three years since. From the stump another tree has sprung up, which now measures, at 18 inches from the surface of the ground, 2 feet in circumference, and has produced this year two bushels of



apples. Scions from this have been ingrafted in many other places. The origin of the Porter apples, so called, which are highly valued, wherever they are known, is said to be as follows. A tree was found growing spontaneously on the farm of Rev. Mr. Porter, which produced no fruit for several years. At length Mr. P. discovered on it a single apple, which he tasted and found to be of very agreeable flavor. He then paid particular attention to the tree, which became very large and productive; and scions were carried from it, in all directions, and ingrafted on other stocks. The stump of the parent tree is still remaining, on the farm of Hon. Calvin Sanger. Mr. Galim Bullard, not long since, conveyed several sprouts, with part of the parent roots, to his farm, where he set them out. All are now alive, and one of them, at least, bids fair to become a large and fruitful tree. Between 40 and 50 years ago, Rev. Mr. Brown began to procure scions of the best sorts of fruit, and ingrafted them on such stocks, as he found on his farm. In front of his late dwelling house, on the opposite side of the road, the land was overrun with *scrub or shrub* apple trees, made and kept so by the cattle browsing upon them. Part of these he caused to be removed, and part to be pruned and sawed off, at a suitable distance from the ground, and ingrafted with scions as mentioned above. This is the history of a flourishing and productive orchard. Many of Mr. B's parishioners have, in this particular, followed his laudable example, with equal success. Many trees, bearing excellent apples, have apparently sprung up spontaneously, in various parts of the town.

✱ A large black oak, called the W. tree, from its having this letter carved upon it, served for a landmark, on the

*State Prison for women is now  
built near this spot.*



line between Sherburne and Framingham, for a long series of years. It is mentioned in Sherburne records as far back as Jan. 1683. Its decayed remains were removed, A. D. 1822, and a large stone erected in its place, bearing the same mark ; which bids fair to answer the same purpose, as its predecessor, to very remote generations.

**INHABITANTS.**—The inhabitants of this place, from its first settlement, have been and still continue to be industrious, frugal and generally skilful cultivators of the soil. A large proportion of farms are owned, occupied and improved by the fifth, sixth and seventh generations, descended from those, who first redeemed them from the wilderness. Among these the name of Leland is most prevalent. Of 165 legal voters, on the list for 1830, no less than 29 bear this name. All the other names, which appear on the list of those, who first “assembled for the ordering the affairs of Shearborn, in 1674,” are still found in Sherburne, Holliston, or that part of Framingham, which was set off from Sherburne ; viz, Morse, Fairbanks Babcock, Adams, Holbrook, Bullard, Hill, Perry and Eames. As early as 1679, we find other names, which are still prevalent in these towns ; viz. Twitchel, Whitney, Cozens, Learned, Breck, Coolidge, &c.

Among the farmers are interspersed a due proportion of the most common and useful kinds of mechanics.—In this class of citizens, Messrs. Partridge and Babcock rank high, as skilful manufacturers of edge tools and elastic forks, for moving hay, or manure, and Mr. Lemuel Leland, as an ingenious gunsmith ; his rifles and smooth-bored muskets, either with flint or percussion locks, being much celebrated. The late Silas Stone Esq. was the inventor of a truss, for the relief of persons afflicted with



Hernia, which has been highly approved by gentlemen of the medical and surgical professions, and for which he obtained a patent. This valuable article is still manufactured by his son, who bears the name and inherits the ingenuity of the father. A number of hammerers of stone are constantly employed, on an inexhaustible quarry of granite, or sienite, owned by Isaac Whitney Esq. and lying partly in Sherburne, but chiefly within the bounds of Holliston.

Till within the last twenty years, the people here generally manufactured their own clothing. Their domestic music was the sound of the spinning wheel and the loom. This, since the introduction of great manufactories, put in operation by water power, has given place to the more silent employment of braiding straw, or palm leaf. Some of the bonnets and hats manufactured here, were they "dear bought and far fetched," would be deemed fit for any ladies or gentlemen in the land.

In 1764, there were 113 families and 630 inhabitants. The number, according to the census of 1820, was 811, and according to that of 1830, it is 900; the increase in 10 years 89. One reason of this slow increase is that, too many of the farmers, like their ancestors, judge of the value of their farms, according to the *number* of acres instead of the state of *cultivation* and amount of *produce*. Hence, instead of dividing a large farm into two, or three to accommodate as many sons, and setting each to cultivate his portion in the best, which is the easiest and the cheapest manner; the whole homestead is inherited by one; and the rest, taking the portion of money, which falleth to them severally, emigrate to a place, where they can purchase much land for little money, half cultivate a





part of it, and let the rest lie unproductive. Others betake themselves to our large towns and cities, where they enter into mercantile, or other employments in those places.

This practice, however, is growing less prevalent, than it was formerly; improvements are constantly made in the methods of cultivation; and it is believed, that the quantity of the most important articles, now produced annually, is double what it was twenty-five years ago.

**EDUCATION, &c.**—The inhabitants of this town from its first settlement appear to have been sensible of the importance of literary instruction. So early as 1684 it seems that land was granted for this purpose. In 1694, Edward West was chosen Schoolmaster for the town.—A. D. 1718, twelve pounds, 1719, eighteen pounds were granted for the support of a school for the teaching of children and youth to read, write and cypher. The town has been divided, from the date of earliest grants for this purpose, into from three to six districts; and the sums appropriated have been gradually increased from the “day of small things” to the present time. The first appropriation for building a school house was made A. D. 1727; and the house finished A. D. 1728, or 1729.

The town is now divided into six school districts, each of which is accommodated with a convenient school house, and \$700 a year granted for hiring teachers, and other expenses. Female teachers are employed in the warm, and male, in the cold season of the year.

In the year 1825, a large and commodious house was erected by subscription, in which an academy, or school for the higher branches of education, has been and continues to be kept; and which has been of no small advantage to the youth of this and some other towns.



A company for the purpose of purchasing a social library was formed A. D. 1808. There are now belonging to this establishment 250 volumes, and provision is made for its gradual increase.

A Debating Society has been in the practice of meeting for discussing interesting topics, for a number of years ; and a Lyceum has been recently established under favorable auspices. Sunday schools have been kept and well attended here, for several years past ; and money has been frequently and liberally granted for the defraying the expenses of schools, for the teaching of sacred music.

Sherburne has furnished its full share of students in our universities, some of whom have displayed and are displaying superiour talents, both natural and acquired. In the following catalogue, H. U. stand for Harvard University and B. U. for Brown University. Those, whose names are printed in *italics*, are, or have been ordained ministers of the gospel. Those, with this mark \* prefixed, are not living.

#### COLLEGE GRADUATES.

\* Adam Bullard, H. U. 1742.

\* *William Phipps*, H. U. 1746. Minister in Douglass, Mass.

\* Hezekiah Coolidge, H. U. 1750.

\* *Joseph Perry*, H. U. 1752.

\* *Eliab Stone*, H. U. 1758. Minister in Reading, Ms.

\* *Zedekiah Sanger*, H. U. 1771. S. T. D. Minister in Duxbury, and afterwards in Bridgewater, Mass.

\* *Enoch Whipple*, H. U. 1779.

\* *Samuel Kendall*, H. U. 1782. S. T. D. Minister of Weston, Mass.



*Henry Ware*, H. U. 1785. S. T. D. Minister in Hingham, Mass. and now Professor of Divinity in Harvard University.

\* *Aaron Gardner*, B. U. 1799. Schoolmaster on Long Island, N. Y. }

\* *Elijah Brown*, H. U. 1804. Died July 28, 1805; aged 24.

\* *Henry Brown*, H. U. 1804. Died August 5, 1810; aged 27. Attorney at law.

*Amos Clarke*, H. U. 1804. Minister of the first Congregational Church and Society, in his native town.

*Ashur Ware*, H. U. 1804. Judge of District Federal Court for the State of Maine.

*Moses Holbrook*, H. U. 1808. Physician in Charleston, S. C.

\* *Artemas Johnson*, B. U. 1808. Physician in Pawtucket.

*Ebenezer Stone*, B. U. 1820. Physician, in Walpole, Mass.

*Dexter Leland*, B. U, 1822. Chaplain and Schoolmaster U. S. Navy.

*Elbridge Sanger* passed two years in B. U. having entered, A. D. 1822. He left on account of a deficiency in the organs of hearing.

*Augustin Leland* entered B. U. 1830.

PHYSICIANS.—The first physician, in this place, according to tradition, was a Dr. Robinson, who resided in, or near the stone fortified house, at the south end, and was drowned in Charles river, while returning in the night on the ice, from a visit to Medfield. Dr. Hill, who settled near City hill, was celebrated in former days, for his skill



in medicine and surgery, as was his wife, for her skill in the obstetric art.

Drs. Lincoln, Shepherd, Levet, Flagg, Wise and Wight are mentioned, as having been resident here; but, at what time they made their entrance, or their exit, is not ascertained.

Dr. Jonathan Tay became a resident here about the year 1772, and died, in January, 1827, at an advanced age. Samuel Locke, son of the former minister, of the same name, entered on the practice of medicine here, but died in the year 1788, at the age of 27 years.

Tapley Wyeth, a native of Cambridge, and a graduate of Harvard University, in 1786, came to the town 1789, and died 1813, aged 48. William Sweetser, a native of Boston and graduate of H. U. 1815, practiced here a considerable time, and is now a professor, in the medical department of the University of Vermont. Oliver Everett, a native of Dedham, Mass. and graduate of Brown University, 1821, took up his abode here in 1825, and is now the only physician in the town; and such is the salubrity of the situation and the good habits of the inhabitants, that one is amply sufficient.

**LAWYERS.**—The celebrated Fisher Ames commenced the practice of law in this town, but soon returned to his native Dedham.

“A lawyer, by the name of Daniel Warren, came to Sherburne about A. D. 1812; but his fees were insufficient for his maintenance, and he soon left the place. Since that the town has been wholly free from lawyers, and generally from lawsuits. Several young gentlemen of the green bag have inquired of the inhabitants, if it were





an eligible situation for one of that profession, and have been uniformly and truly assured, that it is an excellent place for a lawyer to starve in, but not one in which he can gain a living. They have believed this and kept themselves away." Thus writes a native of the town.

**PUBLIC BUILDINGS.**—There are two houses for public worship and a building for an Academy, near the centre of the town, and six school houses for the accommodation of the free schools, in the several districts. Further particulars, respecting the houses for worship, will be found in other parts of this pamphlet.

**BURYING GROUNDS.**—The old south burying ground is probably the oldest, in the town, as the first settlers located themselves in its immediate vicinity. It lies unfenced in a pasture, is overrun with whortleberry, fern and other bushes, and many of the gravestones are prostrated and exposed to the trampling of horses and cattle. A number of the stones have the following inscription; "died in the memorable mortality, A.D. 1754." Though the dilapidated state of this repository cannot be supposed to be injurious to the dead, it is calculated to wound the feelings of the living, who are possessed of common humanity, and who may chance to discover it in their solitary rambles.

The Farm grave-yard is undoubtedly nearly, if not quite, as ancient as the Old South, as that part of the town began to be settled almost as early, as the south end. This was unused for many years, after a few had been deposited in it, and was suffered to be overrun with wood. About forty years ago the inhabitants again began to



appropriate it to the use, for which their ancestors designed it, and since that time it has been cleared, inclosed with a substantial stone wall, and now makes a very decent appearance. A number of the ancient graves are covered in their whole length, with rough stones, which is said to distinguish those, which contain the remains of persons, who died of the small pox.

The Central grave yard, near Mr. Joseph Sanger's store, is the third that was laid out. In this are deposited the remains of the first four ministers of the place,—Gookin, Baker, Porter and Locke. I insert the following epitaphs, as curiosities; one determining the time, when this ground was first used as a burying place, and both showing the quaintness of the style of writing, which was fashionable a century and half ago.

#### ELIZABETH

Daughter of Moses and Lydia Adams.

Born, Sept. ye 18, 1686. Died June ye

17, 1689. Her body was ye first grain sown  
in this ground.

Alone in empty bed it was laid down,  
With many saints to rise and take her crown.

Under this stone there lies the dust  
Of THOMAZIN COLLICUT, & just  
Besides her her Granddaughter dear,  
BETHIAH GOOKIN lieth here.  
To threescore years & fourteen more  
The one attains, or seventy four.

August 22, 1692.

The other near thrice seven weeks  
Beholds the light, the Grave then seeks.

March ye 1st. 1693-4.

A grave stone, found near the dwelling house of Mr. Isaac Cozens, and preserved in a faced stone wall, which



incloses his door yard, it is said was intended to be erected in the central yard, in memory of the person whose name it bears ; but it was not procured till her friends had forgotten where they had laid her. It bears this inscription.

Here lyes ye Body  
Of GRACE  
BULLEN Who  
Died August 11  
1689 & in ye 26  
Year of Her  
Age.

There is a burying yard on the north side of Brush hill, in which the first person interred was LUTHER PERRY, who died Feb. 22d. 1785.

The next ground appropriated to this use is the New South grave yard, in which Mrs. Hannah Ware and her infant child were first deposited. They died, March 2d 1790.

The Western burying yard received for its first deposit, Mrs. Hannah Twitchel, who died Sept. 29, 1791.

In the Plain burying yard Miss Rebecca Newell was the first, who was buried. She died, June 29, 1792.

**CIVIL HISTORY.**—The following is the Act of Incorporation, transcribed from the Records of the General Court of Massachusetts. “At a General Court, held at Boston, May 27, 1674.—In answer to the Petition of the Inhabitants and proprietors of Land near Bogestow, the Court granted the Petitioners the quantity of Six miles square, not exceeding eight miles in length, to take in as many Farms with the vacant Lands adjoining or inter-



mixed therewith as that quantity of Land will admitt; provided that none of the Farmers shall have any part of the aforesaid vacant Land now granted by this Court;— but the said Land to be distributed amongst such other persons as will come to inhabit in the said Town as the major part of the Farmers think meet: provided that there be a Farm of 200 Acres of meet Land reserved, and by Captain Fisher laid out for a Farm for the Country; and that no Man shall have allotted above fifty Acres, till there be twenty new families settled there, and then the whole that is free to be disposed of as the major part of the Inhabitants, capable by law to vote, shall judge meet. And the name of the Town to be called Shearborn.

A true Coppy attested, EDWARD RAWSON, *Secretary*.

By a plan of the township, delineated on parchment, A. D. 1701, now in the possession of the town clerk, it appears that Sherburne originally extended as far north, as Sudbury river, in Framingham, near the Old burying ground, including part of Great pond in that town, so called on the plan, now known by the name of Farm pond; and the whole of Washacum pond. N.W. it was bounded by Sudbury river and Cold Spring brook, including that part of Hopkinton, called Maguncook, Magunkoog, or Maguncog, as the spelling is various, in Natick and Sherburne records. S. W. it extended to Deer brook, including part of what is now Milford, then Mendon; and the whole of Holliston, as it was bounded previously to 1829. S. and E. the line, between it and Medway, Medfield and Dover, varied but little from that, which now separates it from these towns.

Natick, the aboriginal word for, *a place of hills*, embraced, at that time, Peters and Brush hills, and that part





of Sherburne, which is *vulgarly* called Dirty Meadow.— These lands were purchased of the Natick tribe, in exchange for their Maguacook lands and other considerations, as will be found in the sequel. It is also stated, in Worthington's History of Dedham, that three thousand four hundred acres, in the east part of Sherburne, once belonged to the grantees of that township, by a grant to them of five miles square, north of Charles river, A. D. 1636.

By the map, or plan, abovementioned, it is ascertained that the first inhabitants of Sherburne located themselves, at the southern extremity of the township, on the margins of Bogestow pond and Charles river. Here a stone house was erected, and occupied as a garrison house, on intervalle land, which, by a late running of the boundary line, between this town and Medway, falls a few rods within the latter. This spot is one of the last, which would be chosen, in these days, for a fortified place, as it is completely overlooked and commanded by a steep hill, within a few rods of it. This house has been taken down, within the memory of many now living.

Notwithstanding the unfavourable situation of this building, it seems to have been of no little importance to our ancestors, as a place of defence. When Medfield including what is now Medway, was nearly destroyed by the Indians, Feb. 21, 1676, it is said that a number of the inhabitants of that town fled to this garrison. Rev. Dr. Sanders of Medfield observes, in his Historical Sermon, that, "on the 6th of May following, the Indians met with a notorious *repulse*, at this stone house. On the 2d of July, there was near this a new conflict, in the woods, and more execution was done upon the enemy." There was another garrison house, near Holbrook's mills, and a third at Dirty meadow.



Though it is not known that any of the inhabitants were either killed, or captivated, or any of their property destroyed by the Indians, within the settlement; they must have suffered many deaths in apprehension. Three of the adjoining towns were nearly depopulated; namely, Medfield, Mendon and Sudbury; and, in the last mentioned, the brave Capt. Wadsworth, and his company were entirely cut off and sacrificed to savage barbarity. The Natick tribe also, adjacent to them, were suspected of being hostile, though without any real foundation for such suspicion.

Since writing the above, I have been made acquainted with a tradition, which is handed down very directly, that on the morning, on which Medfield was attacked by the Indians two brothers, Jonathan and Eleazer Wood of Sherburne, were sent to the former place, to fetch a pair of oxen. They entered the barn, where the beasts were kept, at day break, heard a noise in the barn, which they mistook for that of swine, let out the cattle, and, while in the act of yoking them, were assailed by a party of Indians, who rushed from the barn, knocked them on the head with their tomahawks and left them for dead.

After the Indians had completed their work of destruction and retired to such a distance from the place, that the surviving English ventured to attend to the dead and wounded, the brothers were found. Jonathan had expired, but Eleazer was alive and survived several years. The former left a wife and children, the latter was afterwards married and had children.

A number of families, in the town, can trace their pedigree back to those men. They owned the farm now belonging to Major John Goulding.



1674-5, Jan. 4th,—Assembled for the ordering the affairs of Shearborn, Daniel Morse, George Fairbanks, Robert Badcock, Henry Adams, Thomas Holbrook, Benjamin Bullard, John Hill, Henry Laland, Joseph Morse, Obediah Morse, Daniel Morse, jr. Jonathan Morse, John Perry, Jonathan ———, [*surname not legible.*] Thomas Eames is accepted as an inhabitant of Shearborn.

At this meeting Committees were appointed, to take a view of the Land for the laying out of the Courts grant; to agree with Thomas Thurston, Surveyor, for the laying out that Tract of Land—and assist the measurer about laying out the Land, &c. Also, Henry Adams, Robert Badcock & Thomas Eames are required to treat with Capt. Gookin and whom it may concern else, for the purchasing of some Natick Land to the accommodating the Plantation, and to make return to the Company.

1675.—March 8th—Assembled for the ordering the affairs of Sherborn. “Voted to raise fifty shillings for the Surveyor for his work.” (At this Meeting Committees were chosen) “to take a view where to add to the grants of Land what is yet wanting to make up the complement and to take a view of Natick Land, for the exchanging with them.”

1676-7.—March 15th—Then was Obediah Morse chosen to keep the Records of Sherborn. It was the mind of the Inhabitants and their desire that Capt. Fisher should be treated with, that He would be helpful, or undertake the settlement of the Plantation.

1677.—2d m. 13th day—Assembled to prepare for the exchange of Land between Natick and Sherborn, as encouragement has been given at the Court by Mr. Eliot and Major Gookin.



3d month, 9th day—At a meeting of the Inhabitants of Sherborn, The Committee chosen by the General Court being then with us—The Committee enquiring where was the place intended for a Meetinghouse. It was then voted and agreed on that the place intended for a Meetinghouse should be on a parcel of Land joining or bordering on the Land of Nicolas Wood and Capt. Hull's Farm.—Capt. Hull's house is supposed to have stood a few rods West of Capt. James Bickford's.

Voted that propositions should be made to Maj. Gookin and Mr. Eliot and to the Indians in referring to the exchange of Lands between Natick and Sherborn, as to give Fifty Pounds in current pay and as much Land as a Committee of the General Court shall think meet.

July 31.—Voted and agreed to by all of us from this time to improve the Liberty of a Town in a Civil Body that the honored Court and Laws of our Country gives to us. At this meeting it was voted that Edward West, as Sergeant, should take the care of the Military in Sherborn.

7 mo.—Voted If any of the Inhabitants shall neglect to attend Town meetings appointed and being warned of it, shall be under the penalty of 3s. 4d. for every such offence, to be for Town use.

'78—11 mo.—1 day.—At a meeting of the Inhabitants of Sherburn 17 persons were present. It was voted that five men be chosen as Selectmen, Daniel Morse, sen. George Fairbanks, Edwd. West, Thomas Eames, Obediah Morse chosen to keep the Records or as a Clark. N. B. This was the first time the Town chose Selectmen. Voted That the first second day of January should be from year to year held to be a public meeting for the public affairs of Sherburne.





1679.—“For as much as for the further promulgation of the Gospel, the subduing this part of the Earth among the rest given to the Sons of Adam, and the enlargement of the bounds of the habitations formerly designed by God for some of His people in this wilderness; It hath pleased the Lord to move and direct the much Honoured Gen. Court to grant a tract of land in the land adjoining to or near the place called Bogestow with the Farms there in laid as is judged a meet place for the erecting and settleing of a Town.”

“We the persons whose names are next under written, for the prevention of questions and mistakes, disorders and contentions that might otherwise arise, do order and determine and resolve as followeth.”

1. “That all persons whatsoever, that shall receive lands by grant from the said Town now called Sherborne, shall become subject to all such Orders in every part and point of Town Government, as are at present, or hereafter by the authority of the said Town shall be made and appointed for the ordering, regulating, or governing thereof: Provided they be not repugnant to the Orders, or any Orders of the general Court from time to time. And that every such Grantee, shall for the firm engagement of himself and his successors, thereunto subscribe his name to our Town Book, or otherwise, his grant made to him shall be of none effect.”

2. “That if questions, differences, or contentions should fall out or arise in any manner or way in our Society, or betwixt any party therein; that they shall really endeavour, to resolve and issue the same in the most practicable way and manner, by Reference, Arbitration, or some other like means before it shall come to any place of publick Judicature except it be in our own Town.”

3. “That we shall all of us in the said Town faithfully endeavour that only such shall be received to our society and Township as we may have sufficient satisfaction that they are honest, peaceable, and free from Scandal and erroneous opinions.”

4. “That none of the inhabitants aforesaid or our successors at any time hereafter for the space of seven years from the date hereof upon any pretence whatsoever without the consent of the Selectmen for the time being first had and obtained, shall alienate, Let, assign or set over for the space of seven whole years any part or parcel of Land formerly granted to him or them by the Town, except to some formerly



accepted of by our Society; always provided that this shall in no sort prejudice or hinder any Heirs at common Law." (signed)

Edward West, Daniel Gookin, Ephraim Bullen, Benjamin Bullard, William Sheffield, Moses Adams, John Holbrook, Joseph Morse, Benj. Twitchell, Jonathan Whitney Jr. Thomas Holbrook, Joseph Twitchell, Eleazer Wood, Jonathan Morse, Abraham Cusanes, Thomas Holbrook Jr. John Death, Walter Shephard, William Rider, John Perry, Benoni Learned, Eleazer Fairbanks, Hopeskill Lealand, Nathaniel Morse, Obediah Morse, Thomas Sawin, William Goddard, Thomas Breck, Benjamin Whitney, Ebenezer Lealand, Nathaniel Johnson, John Coolidge.

*Mutilated Report of a Committee of the General Court.*

2d. "As to the farms adjacent we conceive all those, in Medfield bounds that were granted by this Court and received nothing from Medfield, shall be accounted and liable to all charges and take up privileges in Sherborn: those in Natick bounds, all the Petitioners Lands shall be accounted Inhabitants in Sherborn: and all other Farms that are nighest Sherborn Meetinghouse, shall be likewise in the bounds of Sherborn, and do duty and receive privileges therein: but we doubt whether they be like to be a Town, if some considerable tract of Land be not procured from the Indians, either by exchange or purchase or both.

Your Honors humble Servants

DANIEL FISHER,  
RICHARD ELLICE,  
THOMAS THURSTON.

2—23 (77)

The Court approves of this Return provided always, that the tract of waste Lands, situate and lying indifferently accommodable for Sudbury and Marlborough as well as Sherborn and are now belonging to Thomas Danforth Esq. Dep. Governor, be excepted.

A true Copy Attest EDWARD RAWSON, *Secretary.*

1679.—Articles of agreement between Daniel Morse, sen. Thomas Eames, Henry Lealand and Obediah Morse in behalf of the Town of Sherburne on the one part. Wabon, Pimbow, Thomas Tray, John Awonssamage sen. Peter Ephraim and Daniel [Takawompait] on behalf of



the Town of Natick on the other part, concluded and agreed upon this sixteenth day of April 1679.

Whereas, It hath pleased the general Court by their Order bearing date May 12<sup>th</sup> 1675 to give leave to the People of Sherborn to purchase by way of exchange, from the people of Natick, a quantity of Land belonging to Natick for their furtherance and promoting of Sherborne Plantation.

2. The people of Sherburne above named in behalf of the rest, do desire about four Thousand Acres as it is Plotted, described and bounded on the Northeast with Natick: on the Southeast, South West and West by Sherborn, on the West, and Northwest with a Farm belonging to Mr. Danforth.

3. In compensation for the same they agree to give by way of exchange the like quantity of Land be it 4000 Acres more or less, lying and being adjoining to Mauguncoog Indian Hill, which Land was granted unto Sherborn by the general Court of the Massachusetts; moreover they do promise and covenant to pay unto the persons above named, their Heirs or Assigns, the full and just quantity of 200 bushels of Indian Grain to be paid one half in hand or at demand, and the other half the last of March next ensuing. Moreover, they are willing that Peter Ephraim do enjoy the Land he hath broken up within that Tract of Land they are to have of Natick, at a place called Brush Hill, and to add thereunto so much more as may make the Lot 12 Acres, with an equal proportion of Meadow, to enjoy to him the said Peter Ephraim and his Heirs and Assigns forever; but to be under the government of the Township of Sherburne as the English Are.

4<sup>th</sup>, Also we agree & consent that on the Lands we are



to have of Natick there be a Lot of Fifty Acres sett out where the Commissioners of the Colonies, Major Gookin and Mr. Eliott, and Indian Rulers shall choose within that Tract of Land, to be appropriated forever to the use of a free School for teaching the English and Indian Children there the English Tongue & other Sciences.

In witness whereof &c.

Witnessed by DANIEL GOOKIN,  
NATHL. GOOKIN,  
EDWD. WEST.

Signed as above.

Coppy attested by DANIEL GOOKIN, Senr.

In answer to a motion in behalf of Sherborn Inhabitants this Court does ratify and allow of the exchange of Lands made as above said.

Attest, EDWARD RAWSON, *Secretary*.

At the same General Court held at Boston 28th of May 1679.

We whose names are subscribed being appointed by the Genl. Court to consider the case referring to the petition of Sherborn about exchanging of Lands with the Indians and other things contained in that Petition in pursuant whereof & obedience whereunto being desired by Sherborn the 1 st. of the III. mo. 1677 when we expected major Gookin & Mr. Eleot with some Indians : but waiting some time only two Indians came with a paper from Mr. Eliot, by which we understood nothing was like to be done. But taking notice of the order referring to the purchasing the Plantation. We find there is but little or no Country Land near the place where they intend to sett their Meetinghouse.

'79.—At a meeting of the Inhabitants of Sherburne





in reference to exchange of Land with Natick : for the paying of 200 bushels of Corn to boot &c. 18 persons present.

Daniel Morse for his Farm do engage 25 bushels of Indian Corn this year. Thomas Eames and that Corner of the Town 25 bushels. Henry Lealand 25 bushels, others assisting him—and in case the other quarter cannot be defrayed, then Obediah Morse do engage for the other quarter upon the desire and promise others to bear him out in either Corn in wheat or money ; to be paid wheat at 5s. per bushel money at reasonable abatement." Ensign Bullen and Henry Lealand are chosen a Committee with the Selectmen to grant home Lots to those that are come amongst us.

Sherburne granteth to such as shall make a sawmill on a Brook about half a mile on this side the corner rock that was Natick bounds, the sum of 50 Acres of upland adjoining to that brook, and 3 or 4 Acres of Meadow if it may be found upon that Brook as may be convenient —also 10 acres of Swamp, the Cedar timber excepted. This Sawmill to be built by the end of 12 months, and be continued three years, or as the Selectmen then in being and the owners shall agree. So the Land to be settled to the owners.

'79—9mo. 29—Thomas Sawin is accepted as one of the new Inhabitants at Chestnut Brook to take up a first Lot as may be convenient for building a Sawmill on it. This is where Mr. Galin Bullard now lives. The mill stood a few rods below where Mr. Isaac Cozens's now stands. Some of the timber, placed there by Sawin, yet remains in the brook.

Here take the liberty to correct an error, in the His-



tory of Natick. This Thomas Sawin purchased a tract of land at Natick, and the mill seats on the brook, which bears his name, and built the first corn mill there, in 1686. He, or his son John built a saw mill on Charles river, which was the second in that town, and which was afterwards moved up to the brook.

1679.—Ensign Saml. Bullen & George Fairbanks refusing to take the oath of Tytheingmen, the Selectmen in obedience to the Law do choose Thomas Holbrook to have inspection over those families at the widow Leland, Hopestill Lelands &c. 10 Families. And Joseph Morse as tytheingman to inspect over Eleazer Fairbanks and 5 other Families. N. B.—No Officers of that description have taken the Oaths of Office in this Town for many years past!

1680.—June 2d—At a meeting of the Inhabitants of Sherburne to attend the consultation of the honord Committee, Major Savage Mr.——with the other Gent. of that Committee—did then agree before them and engage to lay down of their lands for needful highways for the use of the Town, and to choose a Committee to lay them out.

October 12th.—Reckoned with Thomas Sawin for his work about the Meetinghouse For framing the Meetinghouse and provideing Boards, Shingles and Clapboards, and making Windows and Doors according to bargain about the Meetinghouse.

£. 50 . 0 . 0

For Boards and his work laying the Floor of do. 3 . 0 . 0  
Daniel Morse, sen. John Hill, Benj. Bullard, John Death with the Selectmen are chosen to seat the Meeting when seats are made.

1681.—July 4th—George Fairbanks proposed to resign up to the Town all his rights and Interests in



Sherborn with all his former charges from the first petitioning provided they would free him from Sherburne.

1681.—8 mo. 27—Voted by the Inhabitants that there shall be a division of so much of our common Land as is judged meet for a dividend by Daniel Morse, Thomas Holbrook, Jonathan Whitney, John Death and Joseph Morse, If our honored Committee approve of it. Also a Committee was chosen to acquaint the honored Committee with the state of the Town as to the accommodation of the new Inhabitants, and intreat their power and advice which way this Dividend shall be laid out. Also the Committee to obtain a Survey to lay out this Land. Each man shall choose his Lot: and if 2, 3, 4 or more shall pitch upon one place, then they to draw Lots who shall have that Lot. Each Man that shall take up Land shall pay the charges of the laying out his Lot. If any Man do mislike his Lot: then he to choose his Lot out of any part of any of the Towns upland without circumference.

Boston, Nov. 3d, 1681.

Having perused and considered the first vote above written concerning a division of common Land in Sherburne. We the Committee for that Town do approve and confirm the same, And for the way therof We advise that it be first divided into 4 parts, to lye to each quarter of the Town according as they shall find it most convenient as to vicinity, respect being had to the quality of the land, that there may be an equality in each quarter as much as may be; Then each quarter or squadron of the Town to divide their part amongst themselves by lot. We further order, that before any division be made of upland, such new Inhabitants as have not had proportionable meadow



already allowed them, shall have due shares allotted and laid out to them. And according to a former vote of the Town, we adjudge the new Inhabitants to pay two shillings per Acre upon their home lots towards public charges, and then for future to be equally rated with the rest.

(Signed) Thomas Savage, John Richards, William Stoughton.

1632.—Granted to John Awasamug 20 acres of Land to clear all Indian Titles that concern the Land exchanged between Natick & Sherburne.

A list of persons admitted to be Inhabitants of Sherborn since its incorporation with the dates of admission.

Ensign Samuel Bullen		Zacry Paddleford 2 mo.	1679
Edward West		John Eames " "	1679
Ios. Morse		Isaac Learned " "	1679
John Perry		Thomas Pratt Jr. " "	1679
William Allen		Thomas Sawin 9 mo. 29	1679
Thomas Eames Jan. 4	1674	Jonathan Whitney " "	1679
John Death 11 mo. 1	1677	Will. Goddard " "	1679
Thomas Gleason, 8 mo. 5	1678	Bononi Learned " "	1679
Hopesill Lealand-11—1	1678	Will. Rider " "	1679
Ebenezer Lealand " "	1678		
Joseph Twitchell " "	1678		
Thomas Pratt sen. 2 mo.	1679		
William Sheffield May	1679		

1684.—Decem. 8—Voted by the Inhabitants of Sherburn being assembled that the difference that is now between John Hill, J. Eames & John Death for catching Wolves it shall be referred to the Hon. Deputy Governor and Major Gookin to issue the Cause between them.

1694.—June 4—Edward West was chose Schoolmaster for Sherburn.

1695.—Feb. 3d—At a meeting of the Inhabitants of Sherburne for to consider and conclude of a inlargment of our Town bounds by our of some of Natick





land that joins to the farm of Henry Rice to make one Township.

It was concluded by the Inhabitants met this day that we shall go on to lay that tract of land that is taken in platt with a enlargement to the farm of Henry Rice, and those Farmers that are willing to join in our Township according as offers have been made to themselves as also to procure a surveyor to run a straight line from the south Corner of Henry Rice's Farm to the Cartway crossing Cochituate Brook near where Course Brook meets with Cochituate Brook the charges of the whole to be borne by the Town of Sherburne. The Selectmen are chosen a Committee to see this work carried on for the benefit of the Town.

1700—June 25—The town of Framingham was incorporated and seventeen Families belonging to Sherborn were annexed to that town. A copy of the Grant of Framingham is preserved in a queer pamphlet, recently published, purporting to be a history of that town. This Pamphlet mentions "a controversy between Sherborn and the new town, respecting certain rights and privileges, which, without legal proccess, was at last settled to the mutual satisfaction of the parties."

1705—6—Jan. 8th.—Then was granted by the Inhabitants 20£, money for the repairing and better finishing our Meetinghouse. The Committee chosen are Sergt. Sawin, Lt. Morse, Deacon Benoni Learned, Corpl. Isaac Learned and Richard Sanger.

1707.—May 28th—It was Ordered, That whosoever shall take bring or convey any Cattle from other towns to feed on the Commons in Sherburn, and such Cattle being taken up; the Person or persons who conveyed the



said Cattle into Town, or the owner of the Cattle, shall pay a fine of 5 shillings per head, the one moiety to the person who took up said Cattle and the other moiety to the use of the Town.

These orders were allowed of by the Court of quarter Sessions at Concord, June 17th 1707, till further order.

1708.—At a meeting of the Selectmen. Then was chosen and appointed widdow Mary West to take the care of and keep the Pound in said Town.

1708-9. —March 7th—At a Town meeting &c. It was then manifested to the town what had been offered to the Hon. General Court by our Representative Saml. Bullard concerning the seventeen Families on the north part of the Town: with the acceptance and Concurrence of the Court therewith; and was consented to by a general vote.

N. B. In consequence of the loss of the Seventeen Families which were incorporated with the Town of Framingham, the General Court granted 4000 Acres of Land lying westward of Mendon as an equivalent. These Lands were called "Sherburn New Grant."

1709.—Dec. 5th—Voted that the Selectmen should agree with a Man or Men to keep School in three parts of the Town viz. Plain, Southend & Dirty meadow, three months; and granted Eight pounds for its support.

1715.—June 17th—At a meeting &c. To state a Rule whereby the 4000 acres of Land late granted and confirmed to the said Town by the General Court in lieu of the 17 Families sett off to Framingham, may be orderly and regularly divided to and among the said freeholders & Inhabitants, and choose a Committee &c.

Voted, That the Invoice of Polls and ratable Estate

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taken in August 1714, shall be the Rule whereby the said 4000 Acres of Land shall be proportioned to and among the present Inhabitants of the said Town being Frecholders and such other Inhabitants that have lived upon hire in the Town for some years past.

The abovementioned New Grant was divided amongst 105 Persons "being Freeholders and such other Inhabitants that have lived upon hire" &c. 17 of whom were of the name of Morse. December 29th 1721, the proprietors granted to Ephraim Hill and his heirs forever, 20 acres of Land in the said 4000 acres, in consideration of his being the first settled Inhabitant there.

Two further grants of Land 6700 acres were obtained of the General Court by purchase. In 1730, these Lands were divided among the Inhabitants of said Town in the same manner as the other Grant had been. They are described as being situated "at a place called New-Sherburne lying westward of Uxbridge." These lands retained this name, till they were incorporated, as a town-ship, A. D. 1746.

1718.—Sept. 26—A Committee was chosen to inspect the timber at Badluck Swamp, within the late grant of 3000 acres of land, made by the general court to the town, and to impower them to prosecute any person, or persons, that shall presume to cut, make strip or pillage of any wood or timber upon said premises.

1720--1.—Feb. 20—A committee viz. 3 from the west and 3 from the east part of the town, were chosen to consult together and report at the next meeting, respecting the building of a new meetinghouse near dirty meadow bridge, and to deliberate and make report of what they may think may be for the best for the town to act upon.

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in the premises; and to propose any method, that may be likely to conduce to the peace and well being of the town refering to the concern of the meetinghouse, &c.

March 20. The report of the above committee was not accepted. It was then voted to run a direct line from Framingham corner to Dopping brook, and then the brook to be the bound till it come into Bogestow brook, and then that to be the bound till it come to Medway line.

1721--2.—Feb. 5. Voted by a majority that morey be raised by way of rate, (sufficient with the old meetinghouse) to build a new meetinghouse within and upon that spot of land that the town formerly set apart for that purpose, near or upon the place the old meetinghouse is now standing.

1722.—Nov. 12. It being moved to reconsider and nullifie the above vote, the motion was negatived by a considerable majority.

1722--3.—March 6. The qualified voters met at the meetinghouse, and immediately adjourned to meet at "the platt seventy or six score Rods Easterly from Dirty meadow Bridge, or Thereabouts," when and where it was voted unanimously by all present, "that a meetinghouse be built for the town to worship God in, on Lord's Days upon a certain hill by the road side, where was laid a heap of stones to know the place by, &c. and made null and void and of no effect the former vote of the town above, and bearing date Feb. 5th, 1721--2, so that the town remain together for the strengthening thereof."

1723.—Nov. 18th. The inhabitants "voted to nullifie and make void the above vote of March 6, in consideration that the Form and Situation of the Town is so ill Convenient, that one Meeting house Cannot be so placed





as to Suit the Whole town, but that in time there will be need of two to accommodate the Inhabitants." Also voted to build on or near the spot where the old meeting house is standing a new one, "ye Demensions to be about fourty foot in length, about thirty two foot in bredth and about twenty foot post." Also voted "that the sum of one hundred and sixty pounds be Levied on ye Inhabitants] by way of Rate upon Polls & Estates to be Emproved towards the defreying the Charge of the said Building." A committee of five was chosen to carry the above vote into effect.

"At said Meeting after Sundry votes had passed, relating to the building, or rebuilding of ye publick Meeting house in Sherborn, &c. The following motion was made by Sundry of ye Principle Inhabitants of ye said town, Who are Dwellers on ye West side of Dopping Brook, in behalfe of themselves and others, on ye west side of the town of Sherborn, now Convened, The request of us the Subscribers in behalf of Our Selves and the Other Western Inhabitants of ye town on the West Side of Dopping Brook; Do desire that the following articles may be put to vote, viz. Whether they will not be free to Grant us ye Liberty of Having that part of ye Sheffield's Farm Lying on ye East Side of Boggestow Brook and Edmond Morses Land and possessions on ye East side of Dopping brook aforesaid over and above ye Dividing line projected between the Eastern and Western parts of the town from Colonel Buckministers Corner, &c. Then We will do all publick Duty to the town as heretofore till the Genll. Court Shall Set us off Except in ye Cost of Building or rebuilding the meeting



house, as it has been this day voted. And if so We'll ask for a Dividing line no further Eastward."

Jonathan Whitney  
Timothy Lealand  
Aaron Morse  
Moses Adams jr.  
Joseph Johnson  
Ebenezer Pratt  
Gershom Eames

John Goulding  
Joshua Underwood  
Thomas Jones  
Isaac Adams  
John Twitchell  
John Larnit.

On the above the following vote is recorded. "The town by their vote do save to the said Western Inhabitants over Doppin Brook whensoever they are sett off, their proportion in ye £160 this day granted towards ye Building ye publick Meeting House where it now stands." The remainder of the above motion passed in the affirmative, "for the sake of future peace and good Neighbourhood."

1724.—Dec. 3—"The Dwellers on the west side of Dopping brook, &c." were incorporated, as a town, by the name of Holliston. For an account of this town, since its incorporation, see Rev. Charles Fitch's Century Sermon delivered Dec. 4, 1826.

1725.—Sept. 13. "One hundred and fourty pounds was granted to Defray ye Cost & Charge of Building & finishing the Meetinghouse in Sherborn."

Dec. 6th. Voted that "the room round the sides of the meetinghouse below (except the alley room) be Improved for the building of Pues, and that Such persons unto Whome the Town Should See reason to grant the liberty of the room for pues, Should do it at their own Cost." This grant was on condition that if any one, who had built a pew, should remove with his family to



dwell out of town, the room should revert to the town; and if any to whom this liberty was granted should neglect to build a pew, within one year, then the place granted for that purpose should revert to the town.

1726.---Sept. 26. Leave was granted to all persons in ye said town that are disposed to build stables or Houses for their conveniencies on Lords Day, to build on ye sides of ye Meetinghouse Common, so as not to Discommode the Same.

1726--7---Jan. 27---Voted that what persons payed in ye last Meetinghouse rate be a rule to seat ye meeting house by allowing but one head to an Estate having respect to old age; that the third seat below and ye fore front be equal in dignity and ye fourth seat below and ye second front be equal in dignity. Deacon Hopestill Lealand, Deacon Benoni Lerner and William Greenwood chosen a committee to seat the meetinghouse.

1727.---Dec. 29. A vote passed to build a schoolhouse 18 feet wide and 20 feet long, and to set it on Meetinghouse Common on the South easterly side of the Meeting house.

1728---April 16---A committee was chosen to sell ye school land in the town towards defraying the Charge of building and finishing the school house.

1728--9.---Jan. 6. The school lands were sold to Obediah Morse and Deacon Benoni Lerner, the former paying forty and the latter ten pounds.

1731.---Dec. 8. Voted and granted that ten shillings be assessed in the next town rate to repair the old, or build new stocks.

1733.---Dec. 7th. Granted to Capt. Death the sum of ten shillings which is now in his hands to pay the



Caust he was owt for Entering a petition at the Ginnirall Court on the towns behalf relateing to their being Doomed for Not sending a representative.

Granted to Mrs. Rebecca Baker the sum of three pounds to make up a Deficiency in the late reverd. Mr. Bakers salary.

1736.---May 18. Several other grants were made to individnals, "to be paid out of the fine the Genll. Court sent back to the town."

1737.---May 18. Several ether grants made to individnals to be paid out "of the fine the Genll. Court returned to the town."

1751.---Sept. 10. Then the town granted 6 shillings to purchase a book for the town's use to record births and deaths in.

1752.---May 19. Isaac Coolege, Esq. was Chosen to serve for and represent the town of Sherburne in a Great and General Court or Assembly appointed to be Convened held and kept for his Majesty's service at Concord, upon the twenty Seventh day of may 1752, and so *De die in diem* during their session and sessions.

1753.---March 6. Granted thirteen pound six shillings and Eight pence to Recrutet he town stock of Ammunition. Granted to Elisha Kendal for ye Locks to Lock up the amunition eight pence. Granted to the Selectmen that Ware at Expence in Geting of a fine for the towns not sending a Representative at the Last year 13s. 4d.

1754.---This year is particularly remarkable, for the prevalence of an uncommon disorder, which prevailed in this town and Holliston, denominated in the latter place, the *Great Sickness*, and, in Sherburne, the *Memorable Mortality*. The number of deaths recorded in January





is 12; February, 6; March 2; April 5. During the next six months no deaths are recorded. November 3, Dec. 5. For a particular description of the "symptoms, which peculiarly marked the disease," the reader is referred to the "Century Sermon, delivered in Holliston, by Rev. Charles Fitch, December 4, 1826."

The whole number who died of this fatal malady in Holliston, was 53; in Sherburne, between 20 and 30. This visitation upon Holliston has been considered by some, as a special judgment of Providence upon the inhabitants, for the litigious spirit, which was then prevalent among them, which fled before the pestilence, and which, since that time, has seldom made its appearance. What was the crying sin in Sherburne, that brought a similar visitation on the people of that place, I have never heard conjectured.

1767.—Oct. 17. Granted to be assessed on Polls and Estates to pay ye fine and Cost of a Presentment for not Having a Gramer School in said Town Nine Pounds.

1768.—Granted to Esqr. Perry 6s. & to Jos. Twitchell 18s. for the cost and charge they ware at in Giting a fine granted by sessions to the town to be spent in a Gramer School.

1768.—Feb. 15. Gave order to the Treasurer to pay Mr. Thomas Prentice, ye School Master and the several Persons that Bordered him at the Several Parts of the Town their Proportion of Eighteen Pounds—the Schoolmaster to Have after the Rate of twenty six Pound thirteen shillings and four pence a year, and those that Bordered him four shillings per week.

1769.—May 22. Voted to put in twenty feet in the length of the Meeting house, and that the Peace be put



in the middle. Granted one hundred pounds for this purpose : Chose a committee of five to See How they would Git it Done.

1770.—Jan. Joseph Bacon was engaged to enlarge the meeting house, and £150 lawful money granted to him, as a full compensation. This was done by sawing the house in two in the middle, moving the western half to the distance desired, and connecting the two parts together by a new piece.

1774.—May 19. The following men were chosen a committee of correspondence, Rev. Samuel Locke, Capt. Richard Sanger, Capt. Joseph Twitchell, Mr. Samuel Bullard, Mr. Daniel Whitney, Mr. Benjamin Fasset and Mr. Jedediah Phipps. This Mr. Phipps was employed by the provincial government, at the commencement of the Revolutionary war, to manufacture

“Villainous salt petre——

Which many a good tall Briton hath laid low.”

July 8th.—The Selectmen and commissioned officers examined and tried the Town's stock of Ammunition and there is 200 lbs. of Powder, 150 lbs. of Bullets and 295 flints. One cask of powder bought A. D. 1702, one do. 1722, one do. without date, two do. 1774. Lead 200 lbs. bought, Sept. 1774.

August 24.—Chose Capt. Richard Sanger, Mr. Samuel Bullard and Mr. Benjamin Fasset to meet committees of the several towns in this county, on the 30th instant.

Sept. 20.—Mr. Samuel Bullard and Mr. Jonathan Lealand were chosen a committee to send to Concord — Voted to git a six pound field piece, or cannon, and chose Joshua Lealand, Daniel Whitney and Benjamin Bullard to procure it. Granted £18 to procure said piece and necessaries.



Oct. 18.—Voted to accept the three pieces of cannon, which the committee procured instead of a six pounder, that the committee prove them at the town's expence, and fire the biggest, as soon as may be, with all the necessaries that may be needed.

1775.—Jan. 9. Chose Mr. Benjamin Fasset and Capt. Richard Sanger to represent the town in Congress at Cambridge, on the 1st day of Feb. next. Voted to consent to the Resolves of the Continental and Provincial Congresses—to give a bounty to encourage the raising of sheep and flax---that the Constables pay the Province money to Henry Gardner, Esq. of Stow---to choose a committee of Inspection, to see that the Resolves of the Congress be complied with.

Feb. 6—Chose a Committee of five to receive donations and subscriptions for the poor people of Boston.

March 6.—Voted that those that have and shall inlist as minute men, to the number of fifty three be a company intire by themselves—to grant eight pound to provide ammunition for the cannon—that the cannon be under the care and direction of the militia officers of this town; that the cannon be shot three times with powder and ball at the cost of the town.

May 24.—Chose Daniel Whitney Esq. to represent the town in Congress at Watertown, to be held on 31st instant.

Oct 2d.—Granted £30 for the support of the poor of Boston.

1776.---March 5. Voted to choose a committee of five to procure places for the poor of Boston to live in.

May 21.---Voted, that if the Hon. Continental Congress should in their wisdom declare the Colonies in-



dependent of great Britain, we, the inhabitants of the town of Sherburne will, with our lives and fortunes, endeavour to support them in that measure; and we do hereby instruct Mr. Daniel Whitney, now Chosen our representative for the year ensuing to act in conformity to the above said vote.

July 5.---Voted to give £7 per man, in addition to the bounty that is given by the colony, to twenty one men that shall enlist to go to Canada.

August 26.—The last vote was reconsidered. Voted that the Selectmen procure a hospital for inoculating for Small-pox, if they can get liberty from the court.

1776.—Nov. 28. Voted that the present General Court of this State should form such a Constitution and form of Government, as they judge will most conduce to the happiness, peace and safety of the Inhabitants thereof, and that the same be made publick for the inspection and approbation of the Inhabitants of this State, before the ratification thereof.

The votes of the Inhabitants of this town, during the whole of the revolutionary struggle, prove that they were animated, to a high degree with that spirit, which achieved our independence. These votes are too numerous to be published in a pamphlet of this kind, and there is in them so much sameness, as to render them to most readers uninteresting and tiresome. They relate to hiring men for the army; granting money to pay them, and maintain their families in their absence; procuring arms, ammunition, clothing and provisions for those in service, and for promoting all the great and good objects, which presented themselves in those times of perilous magnanimity.





As soon as the news reached them of the massacre at Lexington, on the 19th of April 1775, the minute men proved themselves worthy of their title, by marching immediately to meet the assailants, and the rest of the able bodied men, of all ages, followed with all possible alacrity. But the distance was so great and the route of the enemy so uncertain, that they had not the satisfaction of meeting and helping to chastise them. They, however, furnished their quota to assist in the besieging of Boston ; and a number of them displayed their heroism, in the battle of Bunker hill. Four of these are living, viz. Capt Benjamin Bullard, now of Hopkinton, John Ware, now of Deerfield, Deacon William Clarke and Mr. Barak Leland, still residing in Sherburne.

How many were engaged in actual service, in the various campaigns, during this arduous and successful contest, and who they all were, I am not able to ascertain. Two of them are worthy to be particularly mentioned with honour and commiseration. Jonathan Holbrook and Joseph Ware were wounded at the battle of White Plains. The same cannon ball deprived the former of his right arm, and the latter of his left. Holbrook survived but a short time, and was buried near the scene of action. Ware returned home ; has been a very useful citizen, as a teacher of youth, surveyor, town officer and magistrate ; and is now living, at the age of 80 years.

1786.---This year was remarkable on account of an insurrection, in the western counties of Massachusetts, in oppositon to the government of the Commonwealth; commonly called "Shays's rebellion." On this occasion the inhabitants of Sherburne proved themselves to be firm friends of liberty and order, by readily furnishing their pro-



portion of officers and privates, to join the troops under the command of General Lincoln, who marched on a winter campaign, and speedily gained an almost bloodless victory.

Mr. John Ware acted as adjutant in this expedition. Being sent with orders to a distance from Lincoln's army, he stopped for refreshment, at a tavern in, or near Brookfield, where there happened to be a small party of insurgents, who took him prisoner and confined him in an upper room of the house, while they kept guard below. In the course of the day, Ware saw from his prison a company of cavalry approaching, which he soon recognized as being on the side of government. He hailed them from a window of his apartment and made them acquainted with his situation. The house was immediately surrounded, the Shaysites surrendered at discretion, and W. was enabled to accomplish the object of his mission.

1787.—Dec. 10. Daniel Whitney, Esq. was chosen a delegate to represent the town in the convention, to be holden in Boston, on the 2d Wednesday of January next, for the purpose of approving, or disapproving the Constitution, or Frame of Government for the United States of America. Voted, to give the delegate instructions, which conclude thus.

“But, sir, we mean not to give you positive instructions, relative to your voting for or against the reported Constitution. When assembled, you will have the collected wisdom of the State before you; will hear all that can be said on the subject, and consequently be able to form a judicious opinion. And, having the fullest confidence in your political wisdom, integrity and patriotism, we cheerfully, on our part, submit the all important question to



your decision. And we beseech the Allwise Governor of the world to take the Convention under his holy influence, that so the result may be the best good of the people of the United States of America."

This truly honorable member was one of the majority, who voted in favour of this invaluable instrument.

1793.---Dec. 2d. A vote was asked whether the town will accept of the bell, on the terms proposed by the subscribers, viz. That the town shall hang the said bell handsomely, and cause it to be rung, as usual in towns; then said bell to remain for the use of the town, so long as they shall remain a religious society. Passed in the affirmative.

1797.---Nov. 6. Voted to make up the wages of the militia, that shall be detached from this town, according to a resolve of Congress, ten dollars a month, provided they march, and also one dollar bounty, whether they march or not, for non-commissioned officers and privates. Also to give them two dollars more bounty, if they march out of the Commonwealth.

1807.---Voted to give the officers and soldiers, that are or may be detached, as our proportion of one hundred thousand militia, ordered by the President of the United States, to be detached and held in readiness to march at a moment's warning, at the rate of twelve dollars per month, including the pay allowed them by the U. S. provided they are called into actual service.

1808.---Dec. 11. Voted to allow and pay to the officers and soldiers, that were detached, in the course of the present month, as our proportion of one hundred thousand militia, &c. such sums, as shall, together with the pay allowed them by the U. States, be equal to twelve



dollars per month, during the time they shall be in actual service.

1814.---Voted to allow and pay to the soldiers that are or may be detached from this town, previous to the first Monday of March next, to serve in the armies of the U. S. such sums as shall, together with the pay allowed them by the State and General government, be equal to \$15 per month, during the time they shall be in actual service. Also voted to pay the commissioned and non-commissioned officers, the same sum granted to the soldiers, in addition to the pay allowed them by the State and General government.

1820.---Hon. Calvin Sanger was chosen a delegate to meet in convention for the purpose of revising the Constitution of this Commonwealth.

N. B. The compiler has been much more particular in making copious extracts from the ancient records, which are now scarcely legible, and ere long must be wholly obliterated, than from those of more modern date, which bid fair to last for centuries, and to enable some historian, yet unborn, to glean from them such facts, as shall be interesting, when they shall have become ancient.

ECLESIASTICAL HISTORY.—There are no Church Records found, separate from those of the town, previous to the settlement of Rev. Mr. Porter, their third minister. These commence October 27, 1731. At what time a church was formed here does not appear in any document, which I have examined. Some have supposed, on perusing the town records, that the church and congregation formerly voted in convention, in ministerial matters.





However this may have been, the church members seem not to have considered themselves as "chosen out of the world," as the primitive disciples were, but acknowledged themselves to be a part of the world; and did not confine the congregation merely to hearing, believing and paying the pastor; but permitted all, who contributed to his support, to have a voice in his election. I have extracted most of the votes, relative to the settlement and maintenance of the several ministers, which have come into my possession, and here present them to the reader in chronological order.

1677—8th. Month 26th day. Then was consultation and consideration in way of preparation for a Minister &c.

Voted to raise thirty pounds per year by the present Inhabitants, one third part to be paid in money, and two thirds to be paid in current country pay as may be raised by us. N. B. Only 15 persons were present at the meeting when the above vote passed.

1779.—13th. mo. In reference to the settling a Minister; Voted, that we shall pay to the Maintainance of the Minister £40 per year by the Inhabitants; £20 in money & £20 in good country pay as is most suitable to the Minister and to build a suitable house.

Voted, that Daniel Morse, sen. Thomas Eames, Henry Lealand, and Edward West be chosen as a committee to act as the town for the settling the Minister amongst us, Mr. Gooking or some other Minister as God shall direct.

Voted, to Ewd. West that in case he do stay, in Sherburn one year from the date hereof then he shall have that land and meadow formerly granted to him by the Town, in the same state as the Petitioners land is; if



the Town have not a Minister settled. If there be a Minister settled, then to be in the same state and condition with other Inhabitants.

July 18th.—At a meeting &c. to choose a Committee to treat with Mr. Nathaniel Gookings to settle amongst us. Then was chosen this Committee, Daniel Morse, sen. George Fairbanks, Thomas Eames, Ensign Bullen, to act representing the Town to engage & settle a Minister amongst us.

7 mo. 18th.—Voted, That this Committee Capt. Prentice, Deacon John Stone, & Mr. William Bond which are chosen by the Councill 12th present month to act according to the Law published since the last session, in 19th this present month this Committee concerning the place they have determined for the settled place for the Meeting house. For their satisfaction desiring should be voted by the Inhabitants of the town, the place voted was and thereby determined on a hill. Mr. the Committee and the Inhabitants made a second stand to look about on that account near Edwards Plain.

8 mo. 29.—Then was chosen four Men to be undertakers for ourselves in building a suitable House for a Minister, viz. Edward West, Thomas Eames, Joseph Morse & John Hill, these 4 to call others to assist in that work as they shall see meet, and as Men are capable to help. Also, that all shall bear equal charges on their house Lots according to their proportion of Acres.

And concerning the Ministers House that is to be built it is voted and concluded that it shall be built according as is agreed with the 4 Men chosen as undertakers to see it done. The length 38 feet the breadth 20 feet.

It was also concluded that the undertakers shall see



that this House be covered and inclosed by the last of May next; and that this House be thoroughly finished by the last of September next.

Also, that the place concluded upon by the Committee for the Meetinghouse near Edwards plain be reserved for the accommodation thereof to the quantity of 20 rods square as may suit.

1680.—9th mo. 15. The Committee that formerly was chosen and impowered to act as the town for the settling Mr. Gookin or some other Minister as God should direct, making their return to the town that except the Inhabitants do agree to what was done by that Committee in '79, 7 mo. they see no likelihood of obtaining Mr. Daniel Gookin to settle among us.

Voted, that John Hill, Thomas Holbrook & George Fairbanks is desired to assist a Committee to settle a gospel Orthodox Minister on the place obtained for a Minister according to what is voted by the town for Ministers maintenance &c. Edward West chosen Town Clerk.

1681.—Voted, that Daniel Morse, sear. Joseph Morse and Edward West are chosen to treat with Mr. Cusheon or some other Minister to settle in Sherburne. And Thomas Holbrook was chosen to go to speak to Mr. Cusheon for an answer from him in reference to his settling in Sherburne.

1681.—April 29. Whereas we the Inhabitants of Sherborn having formerly applied ourselves to the Rev. Daniel Gookin to be our settled Minister of Sherborn, he was pleased to give us his mind and word and writing to be willing to come amongst us, provided that we could agree to have the Meetinghouse on that place appointed by Capt. Prentice, but some not willing for it, did put us upon further trouble and the impeding that work amongst us wherefore having a meeting



of the Inhabitants & proposals being made if      would adhere to the settling a Minister on that place commonly amongst us called the Lot place, we, being desirous of not only the settling a Minister amongst us, but also peace and concord, did yield to the motion, and made choice of some of those (that did oppose our former proceeding) to act accordingly: but now we perceiving their fruitless endeavors in that respect, and being desirous, if God permit to have one amongst us to break the bread of life to us and ours, and especially the Rev. Mr. Daniel Gookin, do if authority permit of it, bind ourselves to these particulars under written in the full sum of Ten pounds Sterling to be paid by us upon every wilful neglect or refusal.

1st, That application be made to the Rev. Mr. Daniel Gookin, to be the settled Minister of Sherborn, by those three Men the town have lately made choice of to Settle a Minister in Sherborn viz. Daniel Morse, senr. Joseph Morse & Edward West, with as much speed as may be.

2d, That in case Mr. Gookin do agree to come amongst us, we do engage to pay to him annually as the Town in general have voted viz. twenty pounds in money, and twenty pounds in country pay, such as we raise among ourselves, and such as the Minister wants, at such prizes as go from man to man amongst ourselves: as also when the Minister hath a family or the people increase in the Town by the addition of new Families considerably, then to augment his allowance and this to continue with the help of such as may by Law be brought in to pay, during our abode in Sherborn.

3d, That the house for the Minister, in the place where it now stands, be fitted and finished conveniently to dwell in, and one Acre of Land to be broken up and fenced in a town charge; and this House and Land as it is now in part lotted out shall be given to him the said Mr. Gookin, and his heirs forever, provided he do engage himself to us to be our settled constant Minister together with his interest in common Lands as other inhabitants.

4th, We do agree that when we do build our Meetinghouse it shall stand where it was ordered and agreed, near Edwards Plain.

Finally, We do agree that all those above written charges shall be raised according to the Town vote viz. by heads & estates ratable in the country Invoice, and do also agree that all forfeitures that shall be made as above said shall be paid to the Minister towards his yearly





maintenance. To these above said particulars we do bind us and our heirs in the sum above said firmly and do make of the Men above-written to see to the execution of this agreement of ours according to the true intent thereof. In witness whereof we have putt to our hands, dated 29th April 1681.

Daniel Morse, Jr.  
John Hill  
Thos. Holbrook  
Moses Adams  
Ephraim Bullen  
John Death  
Thos. Sawin  
John Eames  
Isaac Lealand  
Zachari Padleford  
Obadiah Morse

Thos. Gleason  
Edward West  
Joseph Morse  
Benoni Learned  
Nathl. Morse Jr.  
Daniel Morse, Jr.  
Ebenezer Lealand  
Jonathan Morse  
John Perry  
Jonathan Whitney  
Ebenezer Fairbanks.

Benj. Bullard objected to the 4th Article.

I whose name is here subscribed do freely and fully engage to remain in the work of the Ministry at Sherborn so long as I can live in said place so as to attend my work without distraction.

DANIEL GOOKIN, Jr.

No date Probably 1683 or 1684.

1707.—May 29. At a meeting of the Selectmen it was orderd, that each person in town, for the Pool or Pools he or she is rated for shall cut and carry to the house of the Rev. Mr. Gookin, one half Cord of wood per poll; and each and every person who neglect to perform as afore-said shall pay a Fine of 2 Shillings per poll to the use of said Minister.

Oct. 23.—Voted to hire a minister while March next and that Mr. Baker be the man to supply Mr. Gookings Pulpit, now in the time of his restraint, if he may be obtained.

1710.—Dec. 11th. At a meeting of the Inhabitants of Sherborn Capt. Joseph Morse, & Deacon Benoni Learned, Moderators.



Then it was put to the Inhabitants by the said Moderators that inasmuch as the work of the Ministry is apparently too hard for our Rev. and worthy Pastor Mr. Daniel Gooking, he being a Crazie and infirm man and well stricken in years, whither they were willing to give the Rev. Mr. Baker a call or invitation to settle with us in this Town in the work of Gospel Service as an assistant to our Rev. Pastor aforesaid; and after some debate on the matter it being put to try the minds of the Inhabitants, it was voted verry fully on the affirmative to give the Rev. Mr. Daniel Baker a call to settle in Gospel Service as an assistant to our Rev. Pastor aforesaid. Voted on the affirmative.

Also it was voted at said meeting To give the said Mr. Baker a yearly salary of 50 pounds money during the life of our Rev. Pastor and after his decease to augment Mr. Baker's Salary if need be.— Voted in the affirmative.

Attest, Jos. Morse, Benoni Learned Moderators.

At a Meeting of the Inhabitants of Sherborn April 2d, 1711. Then the Rev. Mr. Daniel Gookin was pleased to exhibit the following.

"I have formerly as is well known, and several of the leading Men of the Town can testifie, yielded to sink ten Pounds of the country part of my Salary for the encouraging of the Town to proceed in yt. weighty design that they have been lately upon, and are not yet come to a full conclusion about—But it hath been signified to me that what I did (and that freely) would not be accepted of by those to whom the offer was made, or at least it would not be accepted by the Town: but if I thought it would not be imagined that I had a mind to force the Town to an acceptance of it, I would say that I do freely give back to the Town ten pounds of the country part of my yearly Salary, which they may improve for the encouragement of the Rev. Gentleman whom they are treating withall with reference to a settlement: in case they can obtain him, otherwise if I must still carry on the whole work, as formerly, I do desire, and it is best meet that it should return to me and be paid to me as formerly—thus wishing Heaven to guide you in what is this day before you, I take leave and rest your assured friend.

DANIEL GOOKIN."

This being publickly read at the said meeting it was gratefully accepted of by the Town.

Attest, Wm. RIDER, *Town Clerk.*

1711.—Sept. 17th. At a meeting to consider upon some proposals that the Rev. Mr. Baker hath made to



said Town about the advancement of his salary after the Rev. Daniel Gookins decease. Voted to advance Rev. Daniel Bakers Salary to the sum of seventy Pounds per Annum immediately after the decease of our Rev. Pastor.

These with other inducements as 1st. the sincere concurrence of ye Rev. Daniel Gookin with the church & Town in ye above mentioned affair; as also the generosity of the good People of said Sherburne in subscribing liberally towards building and settling of the Rev. Daniel Baker aforesaid together with the land yt is offered to him for a settlement and the good Council and advice of several of the Rev. Elders our common Friends and well-wishers) hath prevailed with the Rev. Gentleman to give the following Answer to the Invitation given him to settle in the Gospel service in said town.

To the Committees of the Church and Town of Sherbern, To be communicated to the Church and Town, Reverend and dearly beloved in our Lord Jesus Christ. It is now a considerable time since you have given me an invitation to settle with you in the glorious Gospel of peace, and it is with no small importunity that you have for some time pressed for an Answer to your desires. The weightiness of the work you have asked me to engage in, with some other things I have had under consideration, will atone for my delaying an answer so long. I hope I have not been backward in seeking direction from the All-wise Counsellor, nor have I been wanting in asking the advice of several of the Rev. Elders, our common Friends and wellwishers, whose Counsel I highly esteem. I am at length, (though not without a deep sense of the weightiness of the work you have called me unto, and my own utter insufficiency therefor and to answer what possibly you may expect, for who is sufficient for these things!) persuaded to except of and embrace your Invitation, acknowledging the encouragement you have proposed. And do signify to you my resolution (inconvenient time) to come and abide with you in Gospel service so long as you shall afford me gospel Encouragement, which, as you will doubtless conclude I should charitably believe you will not fail to do, so you will not take it amiss, that I assure you that I expect it.

Thus promising myself that you will not fail to ask for me at the throne of Grace all suitable and seasonable enlargements of the holy Spirit of Grace, that I may come to you in the fulness of the blessing of the Gospel, and that all my ministrations amongst you may be con-



tinually accompanied with the allpowerfull influences of God's Spirit as a means to the conversion and edification of Souls. To the gracious guidance of the same holy Spirit I commend you, and rest yours in Gospel service.

DANIEL BAKER.

Dedham, Dec. 29th 1711.

1711-12.—Jan. 14th. At a meeting, Voted that Rev. Daniel Baker's Answer be verry gratefully excepted and the Town renders thanks to him for his good intentions towards them, and do freely concur and take up with his said Answer.

At the same meeting a committee was chosen to take care about what is subscribed towards the Building for Rev. Daniel Baker, that it be regularly and orderly performed.

1731.—June 16. A committee of three viz. Deacon Greenwood, William Lealand and John Holbrook to take Care for the Supply of the pulpit untill ye Town Com in to Sum other methord; Then was granted the sum of Fifty pounds for the Supply of ye Pulpit.

Sept. 27.—It was put to vote which of the Gentlemen who had of late supplied the pulpit, they wold here further in ye Supply of ye Pulpit, if they might be obtained, And Mr. Uarney had the majority of votes.

Dec. 10.—Granted the sum of Sixty Pounds for the Support, and to pay those ministers which supply the Pulpit with preaching.

1731.-2.—Jan. 26. It being tryed by a vote whether ye Town inclined to hire som other Gentleman in the pulpit and it passed fully in the affirmative.

1732.—April 25. The Churches Choice of Rev. John Warren to be their Gospil minister was presented to the Town for their Concurrence. And the Town by





a full Vote Excepted of the Churches Choice ; And Lt. Joseph Ware, Dea. Greenwood and Samuel Holbrook ware Chosen a Committee to Treat with Mr. John Warren and report what the Town has dun, &c At this meeting twenty six voters entred their dissent to the above proceedings, said meeting being accounted irregular and Not Legal. And they observe ; Further more We do not Concur with the Choice the Churches this Day.

Oct. 12.—Then it was put to the town to know their minds whither they would accept of the Churches Choice of ye Rev. Mr. Ward Cotton to be their Gospel Minister, and the town unanimously manifested their acceptance of the Churches choice of the Reverend gentleman aforesaid by written votes. The town made choice of a committee to join with that of the church to treat with Mr. Cotton &c. Nothing further appears respecting Mr. Cotton on the records. At this meeting the town voted one hundred and twenty pounds, to supply the town with preaching, &c

1733.—June 14. At said meeting Mr. Nathaniel Walter was chosen the Gospel minister of said Church and town by a majority of votes—Also a committee was chosen to treet with Mr. Walter, &c. Nothing further respecting Mr. W. on record.

Sept. 28th—At a meeting of the Church in Sherborn with the rest of the freeholders and other Inhabitants of said Town Duly qualified to Vote in Town affairs And to joyn Ishue or Concur With the Church in the choice of a Gospel minister—The Church and Town Unanimously voted and made choice of Ebenezer Hancock to be their Gospel minister, and a committee was chosen to Give him an Invitation or call to settle with us in the Work and service, &c. Nothing further on record respecting Mr. Hancock.



1734.—April 25. The Church and Town by a Unanimous Vote made Choice of Mr. Samuel Porter to be their Gospel Minister. And voted three hundred pounds in Bills of Publick credit towards his Settlement. Also voted one hundred and thirty pounds per annum for his Salary in Bills of credit on this province according to their present value : and to rise and fall as Silver money doth With the Marchants of this province—Provided he Settle with us, in the Gospel ministry and so long as he Continues in the Same.

Mr. John Holbrook, Capt. John Death, Lieut. Isaac Coolidge, Mr. James Whitney & Ensign Eleazer Fairbanks were Chosen a Committee to joyn with the Churches Committee To Treet with the Reverd. Gentlm. Chosen as afore sd. And to give him an Invitation, or call to Settle in Said Town in the Work and Service of the Gospel Ministry.

July 16—Voted that the Revd. Mr. Samuel Porter's Yearly Salary Shall be one hundred and Thirty ounces of Silver, or the amount thereof in Bills of Public Credit And the Salary Annually to Rise and fall according to the Standard of Silver money at Twenty Shillings per ounce.

August 20—The Church and Town Voted that the fourth Wednesday in October next Shall be the Day appointed to ordain the Revd. Mr. Samuel Porter, and granted Twenty five pounds to be Levied on Polls and Estats by Way of vote, according to the rules prescribed in the Law for the Support of the Ministers and Messengers at the ordination, &c.

1746.—Nov 12. Then ye town Voted to pay Mr. Wilson, for Preaching (in the time of ye Revd. Mr. Por-



er's sickness) out of money returned to ye Town for not sending a representative.

1749.—Octr. 31. Then the town voted that the Revd. Mr. Porter's Sallary for this present year Shall be four hundred Pounds Old tenor. —Then a vote was asked whither the women should sit with their chairs in the alleys of the meeting house and it passed in the Negative.

1759.—Sepr. 9. A certificate was sent from the Baptist Church of Christ in Boston, declaring Mr. Jonathan Partridge of said Shurburne to be a member of said Church, under the care of Mr. Ephraim Bounde, Elder of sd. Church.

Sepr. 10.—Then the town voted that Mr. Porter's Sallary should be this present year 66 pound 13 shillings and 4 pence.

1758.—Oct. 2d. Granted twenty seven pounds and fifteen shillings to fulfil and Complete what remained due from the town for the Sallary of the Revd. Mr. Samuel Porter Late Deced. At the said meeting the town granted £66 13s. 4d. to supply the town with Preaching for time to Come. At the above said meeting the town made Choice of Deacon James Whitney, Deacon Jonathan Russell and Mr. Arthur Clark a Committee to supply the Pulpit in sd. town.

Decr. 18.—Voted that the committee Which Ware appointed to supply the Pulpit be Desird to Ingage Mr. Minot for 1 or 2 months Longer to preach in sd. town.

1758-9.—Jan. 29. The Church and town unitedly made Choice of Mr. Steven Minot to be their Gospel minister by a Unanemos Vote, and offered £133 6s. 8d. towards his settlement ; and £66 13s. 4d. for his Sallary.

June 29.—The town Voted that the Committee allrea-



dy Chosen are desired to Ingage Mr. Lock to Supply the town with Preaching, or Som other gentleman or gentlemen Until there shall be another meeting on that affair.

August 15.—The town Concurred with the act of the Church of Christ in Sherburne in Choosing Revd. Samuel Lock for their Gospel minister, by a majority of Votes, and voted £133 6s. 8d. for his encouragement to settle with us; also £73 6s. 8d. per annum for his salary, provided he settle with us, in the Gospel ministry, and so Long as he continues in the same. At the aforesaid meeting the town chose as a committee to join with the churches committee Dr. Bela Lincoln and John Morse to treet with Revd. Samuel Lock.

Revd. Samuel Lock by his answer in ye affirmitiue, on September 23d 1759 manifested his Exceptence of the choice above mentioned.

Octr. 11.—In town meeting voted that Wednesday the 7th day of November next be the day for the Ordination of Revd. Samuel Lock into the office and service of the Gospel ministry in Shurburne by a majority of Votes. Also at ye said meeting the town chose Capt. Edward Learned, Capt. Amos Coollidge & Mr. Samuel Sanger a committee to provide entertainment for the Revd. councel at ye sd ordination. and voted that the selectmen are desired to draw money out of the town treasury so much as they Judge needfull for ye sd. Entertainment.

1760.—Decr. 3d. The selectmen gave order to the Town Treasurer to pay Mr. Stephen Minot's Heirs what Remd due to Him for preaching.

1763.—March 7. Voted to pay Mr. Brooks for preaching when Mr Locke was sick.

May 7.—Mr. Benjamin Whitney, Deacon Jonathan





Russell and Ebenezer Twitchell were chosen to supply the town with preaching, and voted that the committee provide three young ministers to preach one month each as soon as may be convenient. Granted £40 for the purpose.

Dec. 3.—Voted to pay Timothy Hilliard his account for preaching at Sherburne.

July 9.—Voted to have the Committee engage *Mr. Brown* four Saborths more than they have already.

August 27.—Voted that the town were determined to come to the choice of a minister before they heard any more on probation; and that the committee employ *Mr. Brown* till the town come to the choice, and voted £30 to pay for preaching.

Sept. 19.—The town concurred with the Church by choosing Rev. Elijah Brown their Gospell minister by a majority of votes. Granted £160 settlement; £73 6s. 4d. pr. annum salary. Chose a committee to Joyn with the Churches committee to treat with Rev. Elijah Brown.

Nov. 8.—Voted that the last Wednesday of this instant Novr. be the day for the ordination of Rev. Elijah Brown; chose Dr. Leavit to entertain the Counsel. Also voted that the town will not make a publick entertainment.

1771.—Jan. 21. Chose a committee to make application to the Hon. and Rev. Board of Overseers of Harvard College for the necessary expence of the Resettlement of a minister.

March 4.—Granted to Samuel Sanger for keeping ministers horses £2 6s. to Dr. Josiah Levet for providing for ordination £10 2s. 8d.

1772.—March 2. Voted to have the town Treasurer



let out the money granted by the Corporation of Harford Collidge and the Province Treasurer to the town, on good security ; being in all £51, 7s. 4d.

1809.---August 22. From this time the "PARISH RECORDS" have been kept in a book, separate from the TOWN RECORDS, from which most of the following extracts are made,

1814.---August 29. Voted to hire some person to assist the Revd. Elijah Brown, in the discharge of his ministerial duties, during his feeble state of health, and granted \$100 for this purpose.

1815.---May 23. A vote, of the same tenor with the last was past, and \$240 granted for hiring Preaching.

1816.---March 4. A vote similar to the above was past, money granted and a committee chosen to hire preaching.

Sept. Monday the day of—A vote was asked whether the Parish would concur with the Church of Christ in this place, in giving the Revd. Ephraim Randall an invitation to settle with them, as their Gospel minister, and it passed in the negative.

Nov. 4.---Voted and granted \$75 to defray the expenses of the Funeral of the late Revd. Elijah Brown.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES.—*Daniel Gockin*, the first minister in *Sherburne*, was a native of Cambridge, and son of the celebrated Superintendent of the Indians, who bore the same name, and was the indefatigable friend and companion of the apostolic Eliot, in his missionary labors. He was graduated at Harvard University in 1669. I have found no account of the time of his ordination. He is mentioned with respect by our early historians, as one,



who possessed the same zeal for civilizing and evangelizing the Indians, which animated Eliot and his venerable father. Eliot thus writes, respecting Rev. Daniel Gookin, to the Hon. Robert Boyle, April 22. 1634.

Major Gookin hath dedicated his eldest son, Daniel Gookin unto the service of Christ; he is a pious and learned young man, about thirty three years old, hath been eight years a fellow of the College; he hath taught and trained up two classes of young scholars unto their commencement; he is a man whose abilities are above exception, though not above envy. His father, with his inclination, advised him to *Sherburne*, a small village near Natick, whose meeting house is about three miles, more or less, from Natick meeting house. He holdeth a Lecture in Natick meeting house once a month; which many English, especially of *Sherburne*, do frequent. He first preacheth in English to the English audience, and then the same matter is delivered to the Indians, by an interpreter, whom with much pains, *Mr. Gookin* hath fore prepared. We apprehend this will (by God's blessing) be a means to enable the Indians to understand religion preached in the English tongue, and will much further *Mr. Gookin* in learning the Indian tongue.

A humble stone, in the central grave yard, marks the spot where his remains repose, and bears the following inscription.

Here lyes ye Body  
of ye Reverend DANIEL GOOKIN,  
Pastor of ye Church of Christ at Sherbon.  
Decd. Janry ye 8th. 1717--18,  
in ye 68th. year of his age.



*Daniel Baker*, the second minister, was a native of Dedham, and graduated at Harvard University in 1706. He was settled as colleague with *Mr. Gookin*; but the precise time of his ordination is not ascertained. His communication, accepting the invitation of the Church and Town, is dated, Dec. 29, 1711. He died May 14th 1731. His age is not mentioned on the register of deaths. Allowing him to have been 20, when he was graduated, he died at the age of 45.

A large stone slab, of the grindstone kind, was placed over his grave, in the central burying ground, supported by brick work. A slate with a suitable inscription, was let into the slab; but the brick work has crumbled away, the slab has fallen, and the slate is lost, or destroyed.

By the side of this dilapidated monument, a modest stone stands erect with this inscription.

Here rests the precious dust of  
*Mrs. Mary Baker,*  
 Consort of ye *Reud. Mr. Daniel Baker,*  
 Pastor of ye Church in Sherbourne and  
 Daughter of *Coll. Edmund Quincey,*  
 late of Brantrey, Esquire.  
 Died, *March 29th. 1716,*  
 in ye 32d year of her age.

The only publication of *Mr. Baker*, that I have seen or heard of, is entitled, "Two Sermons, the First preached at Dedham, October 5th 1726. On a day of Prayer with Fasting there, to ask the Pourings out of the Spirit of Grace on Them, and especially on their Children :---The Other---Early Piety the Duty and Interest of Youth. As it was shown in A Sermon preached at Sherbourn, on May

*A volume of Daniel Baker's sermons  
 in the Boston Public Library - in  
 the Prince Collection No 61  
 Oct 1711 1726 1731*





10, 1727. Being a day set apart *there*, for *Prayer with Fasting*. To implore the *Effusion* of God's Spirit on the *Rising Generation*. By DANIEL BAKER, A. M. Pastor of the Church of Christ in *Sherbourn*.—*Boston*, Printed for *D. Henchman*, 1728."

This is an 18mo volume of 164 pages. The first six pages are occupied with an address "TO THE READER," signed by five venerable men, who were then ministers of the several towns, annexed to their names—JOSEPH BAXTER, *Medfield*; JONATH. TOWNSEND, *Needham*; SAMUEL DEXTER, *Dedham*; NATHAN BUCKNAM, *Medway*; OLIVER PEABODY, *Natick*.

The next 48 pages contain the sermon preached at *Dedham*, from *Chron. XXVIII*, 9. Then follows a dedication, "*To Those under my Pastoral Care*," occupying 6 pages, and signed by DANIEL BAKER. The remaining 64 pages contain the Sermon preached at *Sherbourn*, from *Proverbs III*. 1, 2.

I shall extract a few paragraphs from the Dedication mentioned above, as a specimen of the author's style of writing, and as throwing some light on the situation of the minister and people of this town, at the time it was written.

"*Beloved Friends*,—It is now more than Seventeen Years since you first Invited me to Preach to you, and above Fourteen since my Inauguration into the Office of Pastor to you, as an Assistant to my worthy Predecessor, the Rev. Mr. *Gookin*; whose Company and Help in the great Work I had undertaken, I so much prized, that might I have yet enjoyed it, I have often thought that I could have been contented with the small Salary you first gave me. But a righteous God has ordered it otherwise: However much to *My* loss, yet undoubtedly to *His* great Gain and Advantage. It is now more than Ten Years that I have had the whole *Pastoral Care* of you. And it has been in



*Weakness* and in much *Fear* that I have been with you. Yet I have this to Comfort and Encourage me, that I have reason to hope that my Preaching has not been altogether in vain to you. God has (and to Him be all the Glory) since my coming amongst you, made a very considerable Addition to His Church; and I am willing to hope of such as shall be Saved. Moreover, it has been no small Encouragement to me that my Labours have found so much Acceptance with you. One Instance of which you have now given, in your forwardness to be at the Charge of *Printing* those *Sermons* which were *Preached* on Days of *Fasting* and *Prayer* for *You* and *Others*.

It is well known that it is owing to the Repeated and Undeniable Request of some of you (especially) that these *Sermons* are thus come to Publick View. Might I have had my own Inclination, and if I had no more regard to publick usefulness than my own private Interest, or Applause, and had it not been a pain to me to deny you, they had never seen the Light. \* \* \* \*

I have one *Request* to you, since I have granted you *yours*. I must freely confess, I don't remember that ever I asked any thing of you of an external nature, or on a worldly account, but you always granted it. And now my Request is, that you would be earnest in your Prayers to God for me, that I may obtain mercy to be Faithful to God and Souls; that my ministry may yet be more successful among you, and that I may save my own Soul as well as yours. I am *Your Affectionate Friend* and *Servant of your Souls*.

DANIEL BAKER."

*Samuel Porter*, the third minister, was a native of Brookfield, and graduated at Harvard University in 1730. He was ordained on the fourth Wednesday in October, 1734. His remains were deposited in the central ground by the side of his two predecessors, in the pastoral office, Gookin and Baker. The inscription on his gravestone, which is subjoined, is supposed to describe his character justly and truly, as well as to inform us respecting the duration of his ministry, his age and the time of his departure.



Sub hoc Marmore Reliquiæ sunt depositæ Reverendi SAMUELIS PORTER, Viri propter agiles mentis facultates insignis; pro Pietate et Prudentia, pro Benevolentia morumque comitate conspicui; Præconis Evangelii ardentis; ornamenti Doctrinæ effulgentisque Exemplaris Christi Vitæ; Pastoris vigilantissimi et benignissimi Ecclesiæ apud *Sherbourn* per annos viginti quatuor. Eruditione quoque humana sacraque Theologia versati, sociisque affectionibus et Virtutibus maxime præditi et ornat, qui ad Regionem coclestes ab hac Vita transivit, decimo sexto Die Septembris, A. D. 1758, Ætat. 49.

## TRANSLATION.

Beneath this stone are deposited the remains of the Reverend SAMUEL PORTER; a man distinguished for active powers of mind; conspicuous for piety and prudence, for benevolence and courtesy of manners; a zealous preacher of the gospel; an ornament of the doctrine and a shining example of the life of Christ; a most watchful and affectionate pastor of the church at *Sherbourn*, during twenty four years. He was also well versed in human learning and sacred Theology, and distinguishingly endowed and adorned with social affections and virtues. He passed from this life to the heavenly regions, September 16, 1758, in the 49th year of his age.

Two stones, erected by the side of his, inform us that he had been the husband of two wives, who were buried before him, both of the name of Mary. What were their surnames, previous to marriage, is not known. One died August 10, 1752; the other August 8, 1758.

*Samuel Locke*, S. T. D. the fourth minister, was born



in Lancaster, Mass. Nov. 23, 1732, and graduated at Harvard University A. D. 1755. He was ordained Nov. 7, 1759. Being chosen President of Harvard University, he was inaugurated, March 21, 1770; resigned that office Dec 1, 1773, and returned to Sherburne, where he died suddenly, January 15th 1777, in the 45th year of his age.

Mr. Locke was esteemed, as a worthy and useful minister, and was much respected, as president of the college, till the time of his resignation. Not a stone has been erected to tell where he lies; but the place may be known by that at the grave of his son, Dr. Samuel Locke, who died August 30, 1788. The sexton mentioned in the hearing of the writer of this, that in digging the grave for the son, he discovered some of the bones of the father.

*Elijah Brown* was born at Waltham, Mass. May 31, 1744, and graduated at Harvard University 1764. He was ordained, Nov. 28, 1770. On this occasion the Rev. Jacob Cushing of Waltham preached a Sermon from first Corinthians, IV. 2. "It is required of stewards, that a Man be found faithful." This was printed.

Mr. B. was twice married. His first wife was Susanna Biglow of Waltham, who presented him with two sons, who were graduated at Harvard University, A. D. 1804, and died in early life: namely, Elijah, July 28, 1805, aged 24, and Henry who had commenced the practice of law, and died August 3, 1810, aged 27. Mrs. Brown, died May 1, 1807. His second consort was widow Abigail Flagg, a sister of his first wife, who survives him. He died, Oct. 24, 1816, after several shocks of Palsy, which destroyed his mind, aged 72, in the forty sixth year of his ministry. He was respectfully interred on





the 28th day of the same month, at the expense of his parishioners. On this occasion the first prayer was offered by Rev. Stephen Palmer of East Needham, a Sermon was preached by Rev. Dr. Sanders of Medfield, from Heb. VII. 23, 24, and the second prayer was made by Rev. Thomas Noyes of West Needham.

The Hon. Judge Sprague, formerly of Lancaster, Ms. was a classmate of Mr. B. in College. He once observed to the writer of this, that, in his opinion, "there were about a dozen *real geniuses* in the class, and that Brown was one of them." In fact, in his conversation, in his publick, extemporaneous performances and in his writings, he gave many proofs, that he was justly entitled to this appellation, and that he had made respectable literary attainments.

His sermons were generally practical, rather than doctrinal. That delivered at the ordination of Rev. Zedekiah Sanger, would now pass pretty well among those styled *orthodox*. It is concluded with the following doxology. "Now unto God, the Father, to God the Son, and to God the Holy Ghost be ascribed undivided honor and endless glory in the church—Amen." But, as he grew older, and paid more attention to his professional studies, he grew more *liberal*, as it is called, and during the latter part of his life, ranked with those who are now excluded by many from their communion, as unworthy to bear the name of Christians.

Mr. Brown was averse from controversy. One philosopher may believe the sun to be an immense globe of fire; another, that it is an opaque mass, with a luminous surface. One may suppose the moon to consist of land and water, like our earth; another, that it is a solid substance,



indented with deep, dark caverns ; a third, that it has an atmosphere, and a fourth, that it has none. Yet all these men may use the light of these luminaries equally to their own advantage, and for the purposes, for which they were designed by the Creator of the universe. So Mr. B. conceived that Christians may differ widely in speculative opinions, and yet rejoice in the light of the gospel with equal sincerity, and walk by this light with equal uprightness and safety.

He considered those points, respecting which the bitterest contentions arise among theologians, as having but little reference to the love of God, or man ; and he was thoroughly convinced, that controversy, as it is generally managed, is in a high degree unfavorable to both. He was of the opinion that, if Christians would bestow half the pains to find out how far they agree in sentiment, that they do to discover wherein they differ, and walk by the same rule, so far as they are agreed, it would have a strong tendency to increase their happiness, both temporal and eternal.

To the sick and the sorrowful his parochial visits were acceptable and consoling. His feelings were quick and tender, which led him to weep with those who wept, as well as to rejoice with those who rejoiced. This same sensibility, it was thought, rendered him too hasty in resenting a real, or supposed injury ; but it always caused him to be easily reconciled to the object of his resentment.

He possessed a natural vein of wit and humour, which requires much judgment to manage without giving offence ; and in which he occasionally indulged, to a greater extent, than was consistent with the dignity of his profession.



With these exceptions, he exhibited a good example to his flock, and met with fewer difficulties, either in his church, or congregation, than are generally encountered by those, who have a whole town for a parish; and it is believed by many that there was as much genuine virtue and piety in the town, during his long and faithful ministry, as there has been at any time since his departure.

Mr. Brown, his first wife and their two sons lie buried near the gate of the Plain burying ground. The following is the inscription on his gravestone.

“ Sacred  
To the Memory of  
Rev. ELIJAH BROWN,  
who was born at Waltham,  
May 31, 1744; Graduated at  
Harvard University, 1764;  
Ordained. Nov. 23, 1770;  
Obit, Oct. 24, 1816:  
Æt. 72.

He was possessed of strong mental powers, improved by science; and an exquisite sensibility which peculiarly qualified him for sympathizing with the afflicted. As a friend, he was social and obliging; as a husband, tender and affectionate; as a parent, kind and indulgent; and for many years, an able and attentive minister.”

The publications of Mr. B. are—A Sermon preached at the ordination of the Rev. Zedekiah Sanger to the pastoral care of the church in Duxbury, July 3, 1776. Printed by T. & J. Fleet, 1776. The text from Malachi II. 7. *For the priests lips should keep knowledge, and they should seek the law at his mouth; for he is the messenger of the Lord of Hosts.* And “the right hand of fellowship given to the Rev. Benjamin Green, at his ordination to the pastoral care of the first church of Christ in Medway, in conjunction with Rev. Mr. Nathan Buck-



nam, June 23, 1783." Printed by T. & J. Fleet, with the other performances.

No descendants of any of the deceased ministers are known to be living. Mr. Savage observes in a note to his edition of Winthrop's Journal, "that the family name of Capt. Daniel Gookin is still perpetuated in New Hampshire."—Vol. 2. p. 165.—But those, who bear this name, are believed to be descended from a brother of the minister of Sherburne.

1816.—Nov. 25. *Shearjashub Bourne Townsend*, a native of Barrington, R. I. and graduate of Brown University, 1814, was chosen by a vote of the church to be their pastor.

Dec. 16.—The parish voted to concur with the church in calling Mr. S. B. Townsend to settle with them, as their gospel minister. Three hundred Dollars were granted to be paid him within one year from the time of his settlement; the further sum of \$300 in two years from that time; and \$600 annually.

1817.—June 9. The parish voted to concur with the church in appointing the second day of July next for the ordination of Mr. Townsend.

July 2d.—An Ecclesiastical Council convened at Sherburne, when the following pastors, with one or two delegates from their respective Churches, were present.—

Revds. George Morey, *Walpole*; Stephen Palmer, *Needham*; Daniel C. Sanders, D. D. *Medfield*; Thomas Noyes, *Needham*; John White, *Dedham*; Ralph Sanger, *Dover*; Luther Bailey, *Medway*; Martin Moore, *Natick*; William Cogswell, *Dedham*, Zedekiah Sanger, D. D. *Bridgewater*, David Kellog, D. D. *Framingham*; Luther Wright, *Barrington, R. I.*; Henry Edes, D. D. *Providence, R. I.*; Josephus Wheaton, *Holliston*.





The public performances on this occasion were the following, interspersed with appropriate music.

1. Introductory Prayer by Rev. Dr. Sanders. 2. Sermon, Rev. Dr. Edes. 3. Consecrating Prayer, Rev. Dr. Kellogg. 4. Charge, Rev. Mr. Morey. 5. Right Hand of Fellowship, Rev. Mr. Moore. 6. Concluding Prayer, Rev. Mr. Noyes.

1828.—August 25. Voted that the Parish Committee, in concurrence with Rev. Mr. Townsend be directed to hire a minister, to supply the pulpit, during Mr. Townsend's inability to discharge his ministerial duties; and that they draw on the Treasurer for money to defray the expense to an amount, not exceeding \$100.

1829.—July. 1. "*Gentlemen, Selectmen of the Town of Sherburne*—

Having, after serious consideration, come to the conclusion to resign my Salary at the close of this year of my Ministry, I take this method of signifying my determination to you, and through you to the People, at a convenient opportunity. The occasion would prompt me to say much; but my strength admonishes me to leave my motives to be chiefly interpreted by my past conduct and my known sentiments. The People will not be insensible, that I voluntarily remit what, if I live, I might long and legally retain. I see no reasonable prospect that I shall within several years, if ever, be able to perform the regular and necessary duties of the stated ministry, even on the supposition that I should live and my health be much improved.

I deem it my duty to say that I hope it will be considered one of my principal reasons for adopting the present measures, that the Church and People may have an early op-



portunity of concurring in the choice of a Christian Pastor and Teacher, before discord shall invade and divide a People hitherto noted for Peace.

If I make any sacrifice by this relinquishment, all I wish for myself in return is the affectionate remembrance of this People, and the permanent effect of my labors among them. I am sensible of many errors and deficiencies; I ask their forgiveness. And I shall cherish as long as life a deep sense of their past generosity and friendship.

I am yours, Gentlemen, with respect and affection.

SHERJASHUB B. TOWNSEND."

"P. S. As I have delayed till this time to make this communication, I have engaged Rev. Mr. Clarke to preach for three succeeding Sabbaths.

If any explanation of the above is required, it will be understood, that I desire to retain a nominal relation to this Society as Minister; and a Person settled would therefore be settled as colleague. But he would have all the compensation to receive, and, except what might be voluntary on my part, he would have all the ministerial duties to perform."

July 20th.—Voted partially to discharge Rev. Mr. Townsend from his official duties—upon the conditions expressed in the above communication.

In the autumn of this year, Mr. Townsend and his wife went on a journey for the benefit of his health; first to Charleston, S. C. and thence to St. Augustine, in Florida, where they still reside.

1830.—March 22. AMOS CLARKE, a native of Sherburne and a graduate of H. U. 1804, was invited by a vote of the church and congregation united, to become the Associate Pastor, with the Rev. Mr. Townsend, over



this Society, on the following conditions, to wit—1st. The Society will give the Rev. Mr. Clarke \$400 annually, to be paid to him, so long as he shall officiate, as Pastor of said Society.—The Society agree that the contract shall be dissolved and determined, at the pleasure of either of the contracting parties giving six months notice to the other party of their desire of having said contract dissolved.

March 27.—Mr. Clarke, by a written communication, “To the Inhabitants of the first Parish in Sherburne,” signified his acceptance of their invitation.

May 20th.—An ecclesiastical council convened at Sherburne for the purpose of ordaining Mr. Clarke. This council was composed of the following pastors of churches with their delegates.

Revs. J. P. B. Storer, *Walpole*; John White, *Dedham*; Alvan Lamson, *Dedham*; Ralph Sanger, *Dover*; William Ritchie, *Needham*; J. W. Thompson, *Natick*; J. Pierce, D. D. *Brookline*; C. Lowell, D. D. *Boston*; J. Kendall, D. D. *Plymouth*; J. Brazer, *Salem*; J. Bartlett, *Marblehead*; Samuel Ripley, *Waltham*; J. Parker, *Southborough*; Rufus Hulbert, *Sudbury*; H. Ware, D. D. *Cambridge*; D. C. Saunders, D. D. *Medfield*.

Printed papers were distributed in the meetinghouse, on this occasion, headed as follows—“Order of Exercises at the Ordination of Mr. Amos Clarke, as Associate Pastor with the Rev. S. B. Townsend, of the *First Congregational Church and Society* in Sherburne.”

The following exercises were performed, with appropriate music at intervals.

Introductory Prayer, by Rev. Mr. Ripley of *Waltham*; Reading of the Scriptures, Thompson, *Natick*; Sermon,



Kendall, *Plymouth*; Ordaining Prayer, Ritchie, *Needham*; Charge, Pierce, *Brookline*; Right Hand of Fellowship, Sanger, *Dover*; Concluding Prayer, White, *Dedham*.

June 7th.—Voted that the Parish Committee be requested to write to the Rev. Mr. Townsend, our senior Pastor, and express to him our sympathy and sorrow for the continuance of his indisposition; our gratitude for the magnanimous sacrifice, he has made by relinquishing his salary, to promote our union and harmony; and our anxious desire for his restoration to health and his early return to his People:—and also to make him particularly acquainted with all the important circumstances, that have taken place in the Parish during his absence.

August 18 and 19.—This Society raised a meeting-house which was finished in December following. It is 83 by 48 feet, containing 73 pews on the ground floor and 6 in the gallery, besides seats for musicians. The architecture of this house exhibits a happy union of simplicity and elegance. On Lord's day, Dec. 26, of the same year, public worship was attended, for the last time, and an interesting and instructive sermon preached by Rev. Mr. Clarke, in the old meeting house, which had been devoted to that purpose, for more than a century. On Wednesday, the 29th of the same month and year, the new house, erected within a few feet of the old one, was solemnly dedicated to the worship of God. On this occasion the following exercises were performed, with appropriate music at intervals. Introductory Prayer, Rev. Mr. Muzzy of *Framingham*; Reading Portions of Scripture, Kendall, *Medfield*; Dedicatory Prayer, Ritchie, *Needham*; Sermon, Clarke, *Sherburne*; Concluding Prayer, Thompson, *Natick*.





On the 10th of February, 1830, a petition to William Farriss, Esq. or either of the Justices of the Peace, in the town of Natick, was signed by twelve of the male inhabitants of the town of Sherburne, in behalf of a majority of the church, and a minority of the congregation, requesting that "a warrant may be issued, in due form of law, for the purpose of forming a Second religious Congregational Society, in said town." A warrant was accordingly issued, on the next day, by Samuel Fisk, Esq. of Natick; and, on the 22d of the same month and year, the society was duly organized.

On the 8th of July following, this society raised the frame of a meeting house, on a rising piece of ground, about 40 rods, S. E. of Meetinghouse hill. This house is 60 by 46 feet, contains 64 pews on the floor, and a gallery for musicians. It is a pleasing specimen of plain and neat architecture.

On the 30th of September 1830, the following votes were passed by this society.

"At a meeting of the Church of Christ in Sherburne, held at the house of Mr. Henry Pratt, in said Sherburne, for the purpose of giving Mr. Samuel Lee an invitation to settle with them, as colleague pastor with the Rev. S. B. Townsend over said church:—Voted in the affirmative unanimously.

AARON LELAND, *Modr.*

A true copy, attest, Daniel Leland, *Scribe.*"

"The Evangelical Society voted, on the same day, that they do concur with the church, in giving the Rev. Samuel Lee an invitation to settle as above stated.

BENJAMIN DOWSE, *Moderator,*"

October 16.—Mr. Lee accepted the above invitation.



Nov. 4th.---An Ecclesiastical Council convened for the purpose of ordaining the pastor elect, and dedicating the meeting house, composed of the following pastors with their delegates. Revds. Mr. Fitch, *Holliston*; Howe and Phelps, *Hopkinton*; Kellogg and Trask, *Framingham*; Moore, *Natick*; Noyes, *Needham*; Greenough and Gilbert, *Newton*; Bigelow, *Walpole*; Wood, *Upton*; Baldwin, *Berlin*; Smith, *E. Sudbury*; Ide, *Medway*; Harding, *Waltham*; Southmayd, *Concord, Ms.*; Emmons and Smalley, *Franklin*; Beecher, D. D. *Boston*; Fay, *Charlestown*; Pond, *Boston*; Taylor, D. D. professor of Theology, Yale College, *New Haven*.

On this occasion, hand bills were distributed in the meetinghouse, bearing the following superscription.—“Order of Exercises, at the Dedication of the Meeting House of the Trinitarian Church and Society, in Sherburne; and Ordination of Mr. Samuel Lee, as their Pastor. The exercises were—Dedicatory Prayer, by Rev. Mr. Fitch of *Holliston*—Introductory Prayer, for Ordination, Smith, *E. Sudbury*—Sermon, Taylor, *New-Haven, Conn.*—Ordaining Prayer, Wood, *Upton*—Charge, Beecher, *Boston*—Right Hand of Fellowship, Phelps, *Hopkinton*—Address to the Church and Society, Pond, *Boston*; Concluding Prayer, Baldwin, *Berlin*. At intervals, during the service, a number of appropriate Anthems, and Hymns were sung.

SAMUEL LEE, pastor of the second Religious Congregational Society, is a native of Middletown, Conn. He was graduated at Yale College in 1827, and pursued his professional studies, in the Theological Institution, attached to that seminary. He is to receive a salary of \$500 a year, and to be dismissed from his pastoral relation, on either party giving six months previous notice.



MARRIAGES, BIRTHS, DEATHS.—It appears that the inhabitants of *Sherburne* were more particular in recording these, in former days, than they have been in later times. From the records, which I have been permitted to examine, the following is the result—Marriages to the end of the year 1827—693. Births 2774. Deaths 753.

ADMISSIONS TO FULL COMMUNION.—By Mr. Porter 158. Locke 52. Brown 171. Townsend 90.

BAPTISMS.—By Mr. Porter 442. Locke 245. Brown 914. Townsend 132.

Rev. Mr. Townsend has written several letters to the people of his former charge, of both societies, in which he expresses the highest solicitude for their temporal and eternal welfare. He earnestly exhorts them to avoid the mistaking of sectarian bigotry and zeal, for a sincere desire to promote the cause of truth, virtue, piety and holiness. He urges them to let there be no strife among them, but an earnest endeavor to excel in dealing justly, loving mercy and walking humbly with God.

Respecting his own relation to the two societies, these are his words.

“I was, it is well understood already by both parties, favorable to the settlement of Mr. Clarke over both the church and society, on the supposition that both concurred. Whether I was mistaken, or not, will be decided, in my mind, very much by the course, which both my reverend brother and my beloved church shall be found to take. If they both strive to keep far away the demon of party spirit, and by zealous means to promote the salvation of souls, my heart shall rejoice. But if the one becomes remiss and the other bigotted, my soul shall weep in secret places.

I have thought it important, that there should be no mistake, as to the relation, which I conceive myself to sustain, on the one part to the church, and on the other to the society. I confess, I hardly know what language to use, in distinguishing between the brethren, who are connected with the first parish and those connected with the sec-



and; for I know not what either or both of you have done, in the way of separation from each other, as forming a distinct church. If nothing has been done on either side, then I am pastor of the same church I always was; for there has been no separation. But if there has been a regular separation, then I consider myself pastor of that church and minister of that society, which was a majority of the former society; not because I am especially fond of being with a majority, but because such are my views of the nature of churches and societies."

CONCLUSION.—Mr. Townsend's relation to this people is uncommon, if not unprecedented. He is claimed as senior pastor of two churches, the one *liberal*, the other *orthodox*, in the phrase of the day; one styling themselves "the first church," the other "the church of Christ" in Sherburne. He is also claimed, as senior minister of two congregations of similar sentiments to those of the respective churches, with which they unite in public worship. He has a colleague, or associate pastor and teacher ordained over each society; and if the wishes and prayers of both shall be answered, he will be speedily restored to health, return to the scene of his former labors and be received by both, in the open arms of respectful and grateful affection.

May Divine Providence so overrule all their proceedings, that peace and harmony may prevail, as heretofore for more than a century and a half, under a succession of able and faithful ministers. May each society allow the other, without molestation or censure, to enjoy the liberty, wherewith Christ and the form of government, under which we live, have made them free. And long after the agents in the transactions, which are now taking place, shall have gone to render an account of the deeds done in the body, and the hand, that is now writing, shall have mouldered into dust; may the future historian, in examining the records of the present and coming generations, meet with as little to excite a painful emotion, as has been found, in the archives of this ancient and respectable town, by the compiler of this humble production.

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ERRATA.—In revising these sheets, a few typographical errors have been found and one or two instances of false grammar, in the passages written by the Compiler, which he leaves to the reader to discover and correct.

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